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Virtuoso of restoration Lawrence Loh has worked on high profile projects in Penang such as the Cheong Fatt Tze mansion, as well as Khoo Kongsi.

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or
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here



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photography WONG WEI LIANG
art direction LIM YI LING

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retro in vogue

We often spend this time of year reminiscing on days long past. Yellowing photographs of our forefathers come to mind alongside the colonial-style buildings left behind. In the wake of Merdeka day, we allow ourselves to indulge in national pride, inspecting our past through retrospective glasses. We are appreciative of what our past has taught us, vowing always to advance and grow. This holds true, both in life, and in design.

This month, we bring you through the 1900s with our feature on how to retro up your space. Be sure to check it out on **page 100** if you're looking for some colour in your life.

Looking beyond our nation, we bring you reports on global design from the Fuorisalone in

Milan. Closer to home, we look to the Bangkok International Gift Fair and the Bangkok International Houseware Fair 2015 for inspiration and tomorrow's biggest innovations.

If quality sleep is important to you, be certain to check out our bedding feature on **page 70**. Do enjoy the five different looks we've put together for the bedroom, as well as our feature on how to make the best of a small space. We hope you'll find inspiration in them for your next design overhaul!

As always, we've got a beautiful collection of homes for your exclusive viewing pleasure. Do enjoy them, and let us know what you think on Facebook.

Have a happy September!



EMMELYN CINDY MAH
DEPUTY EDITOR

ERRATUM

In the brand story titled Balance in Design (May 2015), Blaine Robert had been identified as Creative Design and Design Consultant of Deep Living Sdn. Bhd. After publishing date, it was brought to our attention that Blaine Robert is no longer associated with Deep Living Sdn. Bhd.



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New Squeeze

As if Alessi's Juicy Salif citrus squeezer wasn't cool enough already – two special editions were released during Milan Design Week, in celebration of the iconic design's 25th anniversary. The first is made of cast aluminium and finished with a white ceramic coating, and the second – a cast bronze version (pictured) – is limited to only 299 numbered pieces.

The Juicy Salif and its special editions are available at Macsk, #01-14, 63 Mohamed Sultan Road, Singapore, tel: +65-6443-2282.





214P Chair

Why We Love It

You've probably seen this chair in dozens of cafes, but did you know it was designed in the 1850s? Originally known as the bistro chair, or the No. 14 chair, it was created to meet the need for more cafe-style dining chairs and is one of the earliest furniture designs to utilise steam-bending technology. It is also easy to assemble, making it one of the first few designs to be manufactured in bulk, and it is still considered a pioneer of mass-produced furniture today.

Who Designed It

Michael Thonet started as a carpenter's apprentice in France before becoming a cabinetmaker in 1819. He started experimenting with furniture-making two decades later, which led to the development of a bentwood method in which he used steam-bent wood to create graceful furniture pieces. His designs – chairs in particular – caught the attention of the Austrian imperial family and sowed the seeds of his furniture enterprise.

What It Inspired

The 214P is one of many offshoots of the original No. 14 chair. This edition comes with a cushioned seat, while its predecessor sported woven cane or palm seats that had gaps to allow split liquid to drain off quickly. Modern variations include pieces with straight or tapered legs, or with moulded plywood seats that come bare or covered with leather or fabric. ●



THE 214P CHAIR IS MADE BY THONET
AND AVAILABLE AT XTRA.

HIS WORKS



DIDIER
DESIGNER

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OLFACTORY BULB

As its name would suggest, the Olfactory Bulb is a feast for the senses. Tucked away in a cosy, second-floor lot in Dataran Sunway, the establishment exudes coffee. It smells rich and bold, yet comforting, much like a second home. Graphic designers Chris Chey and Kane Chong of Kane + Ein Creative had initially conceptualised a simple cafe. However, further discussions and developments led to the Olfactory Bulb as it is today: a cafe, a mixology bar, and a dessert place all in one. As far as cafes and coffee houses go, the Olfactory Bulb is as avant-garde as they come. There is no other.

The easygoing, comfortable interior of the Olfactory Bulb is almost loungey in make. Dark colours make their home amidst wood and stone; much of the furniture is custom-made. Drawing focus to the bar, a row of undulating glass bulbs provides hushed, gentle lighting. It's a mix of chairs and surfaces that make up seating in the place, but the setup falls together in an effortless sort of congruity.

It's not difficult to imagine that the interior is the work of the partners themselves, given their propensity for design. Chris herself would dig into researching, while Kane engaged in sketching up the place. Bit by bit, and with advice and sourcing help from an interior

designer, the Olfactory Bulb came together.

"We wanted the place to be an open space for people to mingle," Chris says. "It has to be comfortable and roomy. We wanted a place for our customers to relax in after long workdays, so we change our playlists daily, and adjust the lighting intensity to suit the general mood of the place each evening."

Close to three months after its opening in April, the Olfactory Bulb has amassed a loyal clientele. And while there is a menu to choose from, boasting single origin coffee from Kintamani, Bali, coffee and tea cocktails, and desserts, the duo aim at having it changed every couple months. Comments from customers are taken to heart, and used to improve the offerings so as to better suit local tastebuds.

At present, the Olfactory Bulb aims to first introduce coffee-based mixology to the masses. It's a fairly new concept, but the establishment does not shy away from uncomfortable food combinations. Still, these combinations turn out nothing short of blissful bites. A Pisang Bakar Cheese waffle incorporates grated cheddar cheese on caramelised banana, served with hokey pokey ice cream and cream cheese flavoured with condensed milk. This calls to mind the

genius combination of salty and sweet, where the intensely savoury cheese counteracts the sweetness of the caramelised banana.

Significantly less uncommon, the Whiskied and Whipped waffle makes use of a time-tested combination: dark chocolate buttons, marshmallows, and Johnny Walker Black Label cream served with vanilla bean ice cream. It's a dream, with broken-up bits of waffle that remain crunchy despite being laden down with ice cream.

The cocktails are no less a treat for the senses. A Date with Spring combines the mellow, fruity flavours of peach sencha, elderflower, French rose, cranberry and chamomile tea with Beefeater gin; soft and gentle on the palate, it tastes like an afternoon in the countryside. The Traveler's Footsteps is rather punchier, with Sailor Jerry Caribbean rum, Malibu, espresso, maple syrup and pandan milk foam – an odd combination for certain, but one that works.

True to its name, the Olfactory Bulb is rich with the scent of deliciousness. Coupled with an ambience for comfort and the visual beauty of their food and drink, it most certainly deserves nothing short of the highest praise. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/OLFACTORYBULB



ABOVE
 Tea based, as opposed to coffee, A Date With Spring is mellow and refreshing, reminiscent of a gentle sunrise with springtime blossoms in bloom.

RIGHT & BOTTOM
 The Olfactory Bulb's waffles are served cut up, ready for sharing sans the hassle of cutting up a whole piece. Pictured: Pisang Bakar Cheese waffle, Whiskied and Whipped waffle.



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ABOVE
Datin Shalini Ganendra,
the Director of SGFA.

TOP RIGHT
The wind chimney on
the first floor directs
windflow to the level
below. Above it is Bibi
Chew's Homegrown
Series in wood.

"Art in the largest sense is a window to the individual and cultural soul. It is impossible to stay away!" Datin Shalini Ganendra welcomes us with these words. Her art gallery, located in the heart of Petaling Jaya, is evidently a labour of love. She grew up with an appreciation of art, and her training in project management and goal development led her to starting her gallery. It was an exercise in cultural entrepreneurship, a chance to combine challenges and passion.

The Shalini Ganendra Fine Art (SGFA) was conceptualised around the idea of "living with

art". It is why the art gallery is located in a residential home. The gallery embodies the concept that encompasses the individual and the community, local and global. Given these parameters, the gallery represents talents who are established, award winners whose works have been featured in at least one public collection. The artists have origins in emerging nations like Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam and Sri Lanka.

The gallery's distinctive feature lies in its non-profit programming. It seeks to engage and educate, so that "art becomes an investment for

the mind and spirit when we live with it," Datin Shalini says. The Vision Culture Lectures have hosted curators from the Guggenheim, Smithsonian, ICP, and other luminaries of the art world. It could thus be said that the gallery's business model is a distinct combination of education and exhibition. It seeks to inform, as well as participate in the development of contemporary cultural distinction.

Designed by award-winning Malaysian architect Dato' Ken Yeang, the gallery speaks to the ethos of tasteful and stylish living with economy. It is not only a gallery, but a residence as well. The building is filled with





ABOVE
Vintage scandinavian
settee set, with Funda
Alta's porcelain
sculpture installations,
Pins and Trapeze

BOTTOM RIGHT
Hand-chiselled wooden
wall sculpture by
A. Maidan.

light – high ceilings allow air to circulate, further adding to an open, airy feeling. A wind catcher channels wind from the first floor, ventilating the second as part of its state-of-the-art structure. The building is one of the first projects in the nation to receive the Green Building certification, and has won an Excellence Award from Pertubuhan Arkitek Malaysia (PAM) in 2011. It was also nominated for the 2013 Age Khan Architecture Award.

Everything is available for purchase at SGFA. Here, one finds investment-grade paintings, photography and works of mixed media, along

with ceramic installations. Special commissions are available from the artists featured in the gallery. There are also silk shawls from Carol Cassidy as well as Murano glass jewelry by Trina Tygrett.

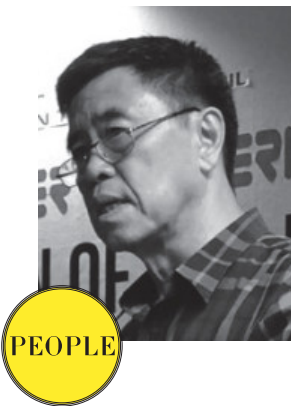
In October, SGFA will launch the PavilionNow, a bamboo pavilion that will occupy the courtyard. Designed by local architects Q. Jade Saw Architect, its craft rests in the hands of orang asli bamboo masters. Special events and exhibitions will be hosted within the six-month period of the IMPulse Pavilion's stay at SGFA. November will see award-winning artist Zac Lee opening

his solo, while Myanmar luminary Htein Lin is set for a show in early 2016. Further down the pipeline, the SGFA will play host to a group show, Emerged, by three established Malaysian artists. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.SHALINIGANENDRA.COM



“Art in the largest sense is a window to the individual and cultural soul. It is impossible to stay away!”



LAURENCE LOH

"DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT WAS SITUATED AT THE EXACT LOCATION OF KLCC AND PAVILION BEFORE THEY WERE BUILT? DO YOU KNOW WHERE STADIUM MERDEKA IS, WHAT HAPPENED THERE AND WHAT VALUE IT HOLDS?" ARCHITECT LAURENCE LOH ASKS.



Back in the day, the location housed the Bukit Bintang Girls Secondary School (now Pavilion). If you'd come across it, do you remember how it used to look like? Laurence believes that "a physical legacy should be kept." We agree.

Laurence hails from Penang. He is known for restoring old buildings and preserving heritage. The Cheong Fatt Tze Mansion, one of Penang's heritage crown jewels, was his first restoration project. The project would then go on to win the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.

The Khoo Kongsi project, on the other hand, was particularly challenging, Laurence describes working with its intricate details as an experience of exact precision. "If even a minute mistake is made, everything is destroyed." All buildings can be salvaged, but the task of salvaging an important heritage site can prove to be difficult, even more so when the architect is not given necessary permission to do so from the landowners.

"You can't do much about it," Laurence admits. "You can't force landowners out. Besides, what is the practicality of saving, say, one lonely timber house when you want to knock its neighbours off to build two buildings at its sides?" Still, these projects rely on up to 70 percent public funds. It's also an inevitable fact that the displacement of homeowners do occur.

Laurence, who is also the President of Badan Warisan (Malaysian Heritage Trust), a non-governmental organisation formed to educate, conserve and preserve Malaysia's heritage buildings, believes that it is important to instil knowledge and history in the future generations. To him, heritage should be taken in as a personal course.

During a recent talk at the Malaysian Timber Council office, titled Conservation of the Heritage of Wood in Malaysia: Current State & Future Tasks, the architect shared his approach to conservation. He spoke on the importance of it, as well as the challenges of preserving historical buildings such as the Malay House and Southern Historic Buildings, which were constructed mainly of wood. ●



TOP TO BOTTOM LEFT
The main entrance of Khoo Kongsi in Penang; Laurence's first restoration project involved the blue mansion, also known as Cheong Fatt Tze mansion; furniture inlaid with mother of pearl is a common feature in the mansion.

RIGHT
The roof at Khoo Kongsi.



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JASLYN CAKES

Jaslyn Cakes is nestled in a corner of the infamous Jalan Telawi 2 in Bangsar. Delectable, classic cakes and pastries await customers of this joint, standing tall upon cake stands to tempt the visual senses.

The delectable aroma of baking offers greetings as one enters the bakery. It's a heavenly experience. And because the kitchen is just behind the counter, the entire process is visible. At any given time, one catches glimpses of Jaslyn and her team tirelessly baking their goodies with state-of-the-art equipment.

The bakery's interior is the work of Jaslyn's sister. Criss-cross beams across the wooden ceiling is a touch of genius, giving the cafe an unexpected turn in design, yet helping it to retain a cosy, cottage-like feel. Opposite the counter, mirrors grant the bakery the

illusion of being larger than it really is. One finds the cupboards painted with chalkboard, negating the need to invest in an additional chalkboard to match the one used in displaying the drinks menu.

The bakery takes a mix and match approach to its furniture. There is little space to play around with, but the bakery manages to fit more than one would imagine, given its narrow space. This is because the furniture is not only an eclectic collection; it has also been appropriately scaled. The tables and chairs are slightly smaller than you'd expect, but they work in the space, allowing more room for movement.

"My passion has always been baking. I've baked since high school, and even when I was studying economics in UCL," Jaslyn

says. "I decided to turn my passion into my livelihood, so I started out by supplying my cakes from home."

One who has sampled Jaslyn's cakes would be hard pressed to say that they are anything but heavenly. Most of the cakes are classics: peanut butter and chocolate, cheesecakes, brownies, cookies, and even dainty financiers and granolas. "We try to do them well," Jaslyn explains. "They are simple, and we try to make them as good as possible with the best ingredients that we can find, and the best techniques that we have learned." ●

JASLYN CAKES IS LOCATED AT 7A, JALAN TELAWI 2, BANGSAR BARU, 59100 KUALA LUMPUR. CALL 03 22022868 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

"I decided to turn my passion into my livelihood, so I started out by supplying my cakes from home."



ABOVE
Mirrors on the wall and appropriately-scaled furnishings allow the interior an illusion of being larger than it is.

RIGHT
The kitchen where all the magic happens.

ABOVE RIGHT
A selection of the sweets that Jaslyn and her team bake.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Carrot cake.

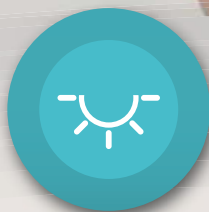
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PEOPLE

WAN ZAINAL ABIDIN

WAN ZAINAL ABIDIN HAS NURTURED A LOVE OF INTERIOR DESIGN SINCE HIS CHILDHOOD. WITH OVER A DECADE'S WORTH OF EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD, HE ADVOCATES FOR THE UNDERSTANDING OF HIS CLIENTS AND THE WAY THEY INTERACT WITH THEIR SURROUNDINGS, USING BOTH EXPERTISE AND DESIGN KNOW-HOW TO GIVE THEM WHAT THEY BOTH WANT, AND NEED.



Tell us about yourself. How did you get into interior design? I am an Interior Designer based in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei. I've been residing in Brunei since the early 90's and have been running my own design studio for the past 10 years. In recent months I have been actively shuttling between Brunei and Malaysia, servicing clients in both countries.

I have always had a keen interest in interior design, even during my teenage years. Instead of collecting music magazines or other magazines like other teens, I was

saving my pocket money for interior design magazines. While I was doing my second degree in Architecture at Oxford, I had the opportunity to major in Interior Architecture. During my formative years working in an architectural practice, I was assigned to a lot of projects which were interior inclined, likely due to my evident interest in the field. My final complete switch to Interior Design from Architecture came when I landed a job for a Singaporean ID company that entailed managing their Brunei branch. There was no turning back from then on.

{ "I learned to develop a strong and practical approach to creating and improving Corporate Identity and developing New Branded Environments through my design work"

Was commercial and corporate design something you had always envisioned yourself doing, or was it an eventual gravitation towards something you discovered you had an affinity for? I have always had an affinity for commercial interiors, particularly branding. I am always amazed at how design dictates consumer behaviour and shopping habits. From my early years in the field, I learned to develop a strong and practical approach to creating

and improving Corporate Identity and developing New Branded Environments through my design work. This inevitably led to the numerous corporate and commercial design projects that we have completed and are currently working on in Brunei, and now in Malaysia.

Tell us about WaMa Designs' philosophy. What is your golden rule of design? We listen to our clients and we listen to them well. ▶



TOP
WaMa Interior's designs are, at the core, functional and built to cater to the needs of their clients. Depicted here is the Jerudong International School.

RIGHT
Jabatan Kerja Raya waiting area.



What do you think WaMa's designs say about the brand and company as a whole?

What style of design does WaMa identify with? We have a relatively young team at the studio, so they offer fresh perspectives on design while my years of experience keep their ideas grounded. My team also comprises designers with different strengths and capabilities. For instance, I am particularly interested in branding, and I have full time graphic designers in my team too, so you'll see strong graphic applications particularly in our commercial projects. And this extends to customised furniture designs and patterns in our residential projects as well.

I am an idealist – I admire the designers of yesteryears who've had the opportunity to design every single element in their buildings, from door knobs to cutlery and

fabrics to furniture. Of course it is not realistic in this day and age, but when we do get to design more than just the interior, it gives me a sense of pride to know that we have delivered more than expected.

At WaMa, we don't subscribe to any particular style. We give our customers what they want. Of course, we use our expertise to guide them thoroughly on what to do and what not to do, to eventually come up with an impressionable interior scheme. That said, my years in Brunei have sharpened my skills in classical designs, a style particularly popular with my VIP residential clients. And I am glad to admit that after so many years in this field, I am as enthusiastic about design as I was on my first day in design school, so I make sure that I am involved in every project that comes through the office, no matter how big or small the job is.



ABOVE AND RIGHT
The design of the The Brunei Cancer Centre (TBCC) & Brunei Neuroscience, Stroke and Rehabilitation Centre (BNSRC) ensures easy access to both patient and medical equipment. The tones used play on gentle, calm hues to keep its occupants at ease.





LEFT AND
BOTTOM
Royal Brunei
Catering, Brunei

In catering to the needs of your commercial clients, what are the things you consider before starting work? I always tell my team that the most important thing to consider when designing is to listen to the client. We must understand what the client does and how the client does their work. It is all too easy to get carried away coming up with some funky-looking interior that does not cater to the client's work patterns. For example, we have in recent years been appointed to design quite a few medical facilities. Understanding the work flow is extremely important, so all the medical equipment is in the right place. The layout must also facilitate easy access to the patient.

This very much relates to designing residential interiors, too. We try to understand the lifestyles of our clients and their living habits to give them an interior that befits them. We do not impose any particular style upon our clients. We listen to them and through our expertise put together a look based on the way they live, and help them realise their vision.



We've seen what you have done overseas. Tell us about what we can expect from WaMa where Malaysia is concerned. We hope to be the interior design company that fully fulfils each client's vision, be it corporate or residential, and to extend the personalised service that WaMa Designs offers. We have recently been appointed to design the interior of a hotel in Melaka, and I hope that this project will kickstart our exciting journey into the homes and offices of Malaysians. ●



FOR MORE ON WAN ZAINAL ABIDIN, VISIT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/QZ7L8U3](http://tinyurl.com/QZ7L8U3)



FAT SPOON

Run by sisters Melissa and Michelle Pong, half the dishes in Fat Spoon's menu are based on original recipes. The rest draw inspiration from their grandmother's carefully curated collection.

"Our Kedahan grandma used to make home cooked food during our Chinese New Year cookouts, not just for the immediate family, but for the whole family," Michelle exclaims. Fat Spoon follows a similar concept, serving satisfying spoonfuls of comfort food (but with a twist) in familiar, homey settings.

Three dishes, bursting with flavours and textures, were served up. In every Peranakan household, Popiah is a must-have appetiser. Served fresh, Fat Spoon's are perfect and not at all soggy.

Two versions of Ulam Rice show up in the menu. The raw version is very much unlike the fried, bringing out the fresh flavours of local ingredients like

shallots, shredded daun kadok (betel leaf), daun cengkor, and bunga kantan (torch ginger). Salted egg and sambal balacan add intense saltiness and a burst of savoury spiciness.

A favourite with customers, the fragrant Claypot Sampan Beef Noodle Soup combines smooth noodles with a spicy lime-coriander sauce and a sour, appetite-whetting soup. Topped with shallots, mince and beef balls, the intense flavours leave you wanting for more.

"We're from Perak, so we're influenced by the spicy and sour flavours of the North. We love using Asian herbs as they enhance our dishes with flavours and textures. We also incorporate subtle pungent elements into our dishes, as we want to expose these flavours to the younger generations," Michelle says.

At Fat Spoon, one has the option of dining in al-fresco, at a cosy corner for two or at a family-sized

dining table. The modern and homey setting is embellished with red flasks, tiffin carriers, pots and other kitchen utensils that symbolise home cooked meals. "They are gifts from customers," Michelle adds.

The beautiful grill doors which serve as room dividers, along with several other vintage decorations, were gifts from their friends. "We were renovating the restaurant around the same time our friends were having their homes done. Our main doors, on the other hand, are from a vintage collector in Section 17," Michelle recalls.

The two sisters have also launched a new Japanese-themed restaurant this year. Named Mei for their middle names, the restaurant follows their exposure to Japanese cuisine from their younger years. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FATSPOONCAFE

“Our Kedahan grandma used to make home cooked food during our Chinese New Year cookouts, not just for the immediate family, but for the whole family.”

BELOW
Mirrors on the wall and appropriately-scaled furnishings allow the interior an illusion of being larger than it is.

BELOW
These doors with stained glass are from a vintage collector in Section 17,

RIGHT TO BOTTOM
A tiffin carrier, red flask, and pots hang over a dining table.

Claypot sampan beef noodle soup.





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CHECK
OUT

SEEDS & WHEATS

Seeds & Wheats was founded by four friends who run three other cafes in the Klang Valley area. Having first opened its doors in May, the cafe offers healthy, light and tasty brunches to office-workers and church-goers on weekdays and weekends respectively.

Located in the Honeywell building opposite UNITAR amidst Section 13's other factories, the two-month-old cafe attracts a sizeable crowd. Business is booming.

According to Teh Pin Xian, who manages cafe affairs, bagels are a surprising favourite among customers. Their best sellers include a beef bacon and egg bagel topped with poppy seeds and a salad on the side, and their turkey cranberry sandwich.

Pastries are a must-try at Seeds & Wheats. A savoury best-seller incorporates bits of cheese and chives over a Danish-wrapped sausage, whilst a refreshingly sweet peach Danish is a lovely way to end any meal.

"We're offering healthy lifestyles to our customers. There are no preservatives in our food," says Pin Xian.

"Our owner Michael Teh first experimented with sweet buns, and it was only after the first café opened in 2013 that he delved into the process of making Danishes," Pin Xian recalls. A hairstylist by trade, Michael built a "hut" (now Breadtime café) behind his hair salon at Jalan Gasing in which to practice making bread. Guided by books, he mastered his skills in baking and eventually got around to creating his own bread and pastry recipes.

The founders of Seeds & Wheats used metal, glass, wood and brick to create a small, cosy and welcoming space. The idea was to build cafe where customers could enjoy some peace and quiet despite the hustle and bustle of the offices in the surrounding area. Michael himself designed the tables and chairs. With wooden surfaces and metal legs, the furnishings were brought to life by a 70-year-old furniture maker.

Other design quirks include stone-like tiled floors paired with an edgy metal ceiling piece lit up with light bulbs. Welcoming each customer at the door, a metal owl stands ready to greet. Outdoor seating is available, with the cafe also catering for corporate functions for up to 70. ●



ABOVE
The cafe interior includes metal, wood, brick and glass elements.



LEFT
Beef bacon and egg bagel topped with poppy seeds.

BOTTOM
Peach danish.



SEEDS & WHEATS IS LOCATED AT LOT 41, NO 10, BLOCK C, JALAN BERSATU 13/4, SECTION 13, 46200, PETALING JAYA.

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* Upon online registration and valid for purchases from now until 31 July 2016. Terms and conditions apply.

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Bye, bye, mosquitoes!

Mosquitoes are pests. They disrupt the peace and quiet of our lives with noisy buzzing, and to make it worse, some species of mosquitoes carry diseases like dengue and malaria. To prevent such a formidable menace from entering our homes, LG has introduced a one-of-a-kind air conditioner that will surely rid us of them once and for all. The aptly-named Mosquito Away Air Conditioner comes equipped with a speaker that generates ultrasonic waves between 30 and 100 kHz, which repels mosquitoes within a 33m² radius (below a temperature of 27 degrees Celsius). The air conditioner also boasts inverter technology, which reduces operating temperature to ensure efficient cooling while saving energy at the same time.



The ultrasonic waves of the Mosquito Away Air Conditioner will only affect mosquitoes, so you can rest assured your pet dogs and cats will be safe from harm.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LG.COM/MY



Paint in metal and stone

Mr. Yaw Seng Heng, Group Managing Director of Nippon Paint Malaysia recently launched the Nippon Momento Designer Series, Nippon Metallic Paint and Nippon Momento Stone Art. According to Mr. Yaw, each of the paints and coating in the new series are aimed at "creating rich, aesthetic value for homes, offices as well as various interaction spaces." Over 1000 customers, dealers, interior designers and architects were present at the 2-day launch in Connexion @ Nexus, Bangsar South. The Nippon Momento Designer Series features variants that offer luxurious shimmer, while the Metallic Paints are formulated to provide sleek and sharp metallic lustre on all surfaces. Further adding life to your walls, the Nippon Momento Stone Art paints boast a unique stone-textured finishing, similar to the look and feel of real granite.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NIPPONMOMENTO.COM

Fresh food, whenever you want it

Midea's new MD-402W fridge is exactly what you need for keeping food fresh. This is made possible by the high moisture-retention system of the fridge, which preserves up to 80 percent humidity in comparison to the 19 – 26 percent of most other fridges. Its tempered glass fruit and vegetable crisper will keep your produce fresh and free from damaging frost.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MIDEA.COM/MY



{ Clothes that need refreshing can benefit from the Vapour Refresh function, which refreshes and de-wrinkles clothes that have been in storage for some time.



Wash up a storm

Electrolux's new Time Manager range of washing machines is truly a wonder, efficiency in essence with a capacity of 11 kilograms. An UltraMix System premixes water and detergents, evenly distributing the solution for optimum washing. Internal jet sprays then increase water circulation, ensuring your clothes are washed cleaner, all the while using less water.

With EcoInverter technology inside, the machines ensure a high level of efficiency whilst simultaneously doing your laundry with minimal vibration, thereby minimising the effects of wear and tear. Quiet and effective, the range of machines also allows for you to do your laundry at any time of the day without fear of interrupting rest with excessive noise.

Clothes that need refreshing can benefit from the Vapour Refresh function, which refreshes and de-wrinkles clothes that have been in storage for some time. A Load Sensor adds even more magic, taking note of the weight of your laundry to determine the optimum amount of detergent, water, and time required for each separate load.

With up to 12 washing programs for your ease of use, the Time Manager range of machines is certain to make laundry day an absolute breeze.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.ELECTROLUX.COM.MY



The art of living

This season, Goodrich gives us a collection that embodies retro sensibilities with simple, yet modern prints. This collection is filled with pure and basic designs, all achieving symmetrical simplicity. Geometric patterns in blacks, grey, and whites, complemented by soft pinks, pastels, and burnt oranges share the spotlight in this collection.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.GOODRICH.MYSHOPIFY.COM/

You are the pearl

Of Marcel Wanders design, the Nut Dining Chair is certain to make anyone sitting on it feel like a beautiful pearl. The upholstery of the luxurious cushion is richly patterned to distinguish it from every other chair.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MOOOI.COM/PRODUCTS/NUT-DINING-CHAIR



Celebration of art and ceramics

Recently, a week-long exhibition at Bookmark, APW Bangsar was held courtesy of Kimgres. Titled *Bespoke Chemistry: A Remix of Art & Progress*, the exhibition featured artwork from various local artists whose works were printed on Kimgres base tiles instead of traditional canvas. In addition to supporting local talents of the artistic world by showcasing their works, the exhibition also served to highlight Kimgres' Bespoke service, where clients can print a design of their choice on Kimgres tiles. The event also saw the cementing of a partnership between Kimgres and 3nity Design.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.KIMGRES.COM/



Teaching to improve lives

The Mah Sing Foundation, a charitable trust established by Mah Sing Group Berhad recently donated RM 120, 000 to Teach for Malaysia to support its not-for-profit programme. The generous donation solidifies the Mah Sing Foundation's commitment to support Teach for Malaysia. By training young, passionate leaders in high-need schools for two years, Teach for Malaysia hopes to transform and improve the Malaysian school system. The individuals, known as "Fellows", will remain connected to the mission as part of Teach for Malaysia's alumni following the end of their two-year programme in order to make long term, systemic improvements to the education system.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.MAHSINGCOMMUNITY.COM.MY/ AND WWW.TEACHFORMALAYSIA.ORG



Colour-block the couch

Want a colour-blocked couch to match your colourful personality? Don't worry – it's not just a short-lived trend. Colour blocking first emerged in the late 50s, and is still making its rounds in popularity today! Embrace the trend with Swags & Tails' Manhattan Two-seater, and mix and match all you want from the wide range of designs and colours available.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SWAGSTAILS.COM/



In and out

Vondom's JUT series of furniture is designed for both outdoor and indoor spaces. The series comprises a sun lounge, a sofa, an armchair, a chair, two different-sized tables, an extendable table, stools, and a high table. Created using recyclable materials, this series comes in a myriad of colours for your selection pleasure.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.QUELFURNITURE.COM/



Smell and look good

An international strongman of home decor items, Kartell further expands its extensive range of products with home fragrance. Choose from eight different perfumes and four different diffusers, from candles to electronic diffusers. Each fragrance comes with a unique personality that encapsulates the spirit and character of Kartell. Available in the range are the flowery and musky Ghost Diamond, flowery and aquatic Drops, flowery and musky Omberuse, flowery and citrusy Neroli, woody and citrusy Portofino, spicy and woody Ad-red-naline, flowery, citrusy, oriental and woody Alhambra, and flowery, spicy, woody and oriental Noir.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.KARTELL.COM

Illuminating floras

Slamp's Fiorella collection is personified by an exuberant bouquet that is not only fresh, but also full of life. Each lamp in the collection features 24 branches that amplify the effects of multiple surfaces. Choose Fume with its soft grey finish, or opaque White.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SLAMP.COM/



Stay warm and cosy

This stylish, lightweight blanket from H&M Home is perfect for chilly, rainy nights. It will keep you warm without being too heavy for our tropical weather.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.HM.COM/MY/DEPARTMENT/HOME

Sleek and powerful

LG's new LHB755W 3D Blu-Ray Home Theatre System is a state of the art system that brings the best entertainment experience. With an immersive, 5.1 channel surround sound and Bluetooth streaming, you can enjoy perfect sound with any device in your home. The midrange speaker cones feature Aramid fibres, which not only improve durability but also the strength of the speaker for powerful and clear rounds.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.LG.COM/MY



The Wonderful Magic Drum

IT IS REALLY CAPABLE OF MAGIC!

Clean, crisp clothes are smile-inducing. When worn, they give one the confidence to pull through the day, facing any and every adversity with mettle. With Toshiba Sales and Services' (TSS) new range of Magic Drum S-DD Inverter and Circular Intake washing machines, this is possible, and with great ease.

Four new models have been added to the line of Magic Drums, namely the 11kg and 10kg variants for the S-DD Inverter models, and the 10.5kg and 9.5kg variants for the Circular Intake models.

The Magic Drums can reduce up to 99% of mould in laundry, and has been certified by the Kitasato Research Centre for Environmental Science in Japan. This is how it works: a dirt-proof coating behind the Magic Drum prevents dirt, oil, grease, and even detergent residue from remaining on the surface, washing them away with every wash cycle.

Adding on to the cleaning ability of the Magic Drum, a

Mega Power Wash technology not only grips clothes more firmly, but also causes them to move in a three-dimensional direction during the wash process. This prevents your clothes from tangling due to the free-flowing, vertical movements generated. This technology also ensures that detergent permeates through fabric fibres, making sure your laundry is thoroughly clean.

Operating at a maximum of 37 decibels, the Magic Drum is one of the quietest washing machines in the market. It can also save electricity, thanks to its inverter technology and zero standby power. In its Standby mode, no electricity is consumed at all. You can even pre-select your preferred timing, so you can synchronise your laundry time with the rest of your schedule.

All Magic Drum models come with two years' general warranty upon online registration from now to the 31st of July, 2016.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 1300 88 7899 OR VISIT WWW.TOSHIBA.COM.MY

{ The Magic Drums can reduce up to 99% of mould in laundry, and has been certified by the Kitasato Research Centre for Environmental Science in Japan.

Hong Leong group moves to Damansara City

The Hong Leong Group has selected Damansara City, the flagship development of GuocoLand as the future home of its global headquarters. "Damansara City is located within the exclusive enclave of Damansara Heights, which is mere minutes away from Bangsar, the KL city centre, the KL Sentral transportation hub and other established townships," said Mr. Tan Lee Koon, managing director of GuocoLand. The developments in Damansara City are MSC-status ready and are compliant with the Green Building Index. They were also granted Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold ratings. When it is fully operational, GuocoLand expects Damansara City to attract an initial traffic of 10, 000 workers in the development with 6, 000 visitors daily.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.DAMANSARA-CITY.COM OR WWW.GUOCOLAND.COM.



Better, faster cooking

With Samsung's MC35J8088LT Convection Microwave Oven with HotBlast, cooking becomes an absolute cinch! The HotBlast feature introduces powerful bursts of hot air into the microwave oven, directly onto the food so that it is perfectly cooked – crispy on the outside and juicy on the inside. The Dual Power Grill means that you can enjoy grilled foods faster with consistent heat distribution. The microwave oven is also equipped with Slim Fry technology which grills while constantly circulating warm air, so you'll need only a touch of oil for frying. The turntable is removable, so you can easily remove it to accommodate larger pieces of cookware, utilising every last inch of space.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.SAMSUNG.COM/MY

Rejuvenate your clothes with a Pulse

Manners maketh man, but so do the clothes we wear! To look our best, our clothes not only need to be stylish – they also have to clean and immaculately pressed. With the Laurastar Pulse system, you'll always have fresh, wrinkle-free clothes. Short, intermittent pulses of steam are diffused while ironing, removing creases in clothing with ultimate ease. Your fabrics will be well-protected against unnecessary heat with Laurastar Pulse's removable soleplate. The iron also moves seamlessly across the ironing board, thanks to two pairs of ergonomic wheels. The cable winds itself automatically, and when folded, the entire system takes up only 20 centimetres of space. ●



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.DYSON.MY/



KITCHEN INNOVATIONS

Never again be plagued with failed recipes! With innovation and technology, Bosch's brand new Series 8 oven makes great cooking even greater.



Having stood at the forefront of expert development, technical quality and reliability for over 75 years, Bosch once again shows its dedication to improving consumers' lives through technology. The new Bosch Series 8 ovens, recently unveiled in the Asia-Pacific region have taken a 2015 German Design Award. With 21 new technologies developed by 130 engineers integrated within, it's not hard to see why.

Made for easy, fuss-free cooking, the Series 8 ovens are equipped with newly-developed 4D hot air technology. Even heat is distributed through a symmetric, alternating fan driven by an efficient, EcoSilence drive

motor, thus ensuring well-balanced cooking. This enables up to four levels of baking and roasting at the same time with the same amazing results every time.

The Series 8 ovens also come equipped with a new steam injection function which ensures all your roasted meats come out crisp on the outside and meltingly tender on the inside. Coupled with the PerfectRoast meat probe, an internal device that measures the core temperature of your meat at three different points, roast dinners will never again be overcooked and tough.

If you enjoy baking your own breads, the steam injection function will also impart

your baking with an appealingly shiny crust. Beyond breads, cakes, cupcakes and muffins also benefit from the ingenuity; a PerfectBake sensor measures the moisture levels in the oven for an even bake, so you can permanently write off burnt or undercooked bakes.

The aesthetics of Bosch products remain always at the forefront alongside technology and ease of use. That's why the Series 8 ovens are precisely-contoured with full metal surface, boasting an inbuilt high-resolution and interactive display, glass touch buttons, embossed icon buttons, and brushed stainless steel integrated control rings. Truly works of art in kitchen fittings, Bosch's Series 8 ovens are certain to fit perfectly in kitchens of any make and design.

Users can choose from eight models, which will be available in all leading home appliance stores from September 2015 onwards.

For more information, visit www.bosch-home.com.my

WILD AT HEART

Who let the animals out?
We imagine a world where
beautiful wild creatures come
out to play – in our homes!





Lioness, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT

Raft stained oak **dining table**, and Black In Between **chair**, both from Grafunkt. Andreu World Nub **chair** designed by Patricia Urquiola, from Xtra. Knoll black diamond **armchair**, from Dream.

ON TABLE

Copenhagen green light **mat**, and Copenhagen white light **mat**, both from Grafunkt. Studio **platter**, Marbury **bowl**, Bellamy **carafe**, price upon request; Mercer low **bowl**, Sandra **champagne flutes**, Urban **place setting**, for a set of five; Studio light **clay platter**, Dansk Kobenstyle white **casserole dish**, price upon request, and Beckett Natural (120 inch) **table runner**, all from Crate & Barrel.

BACKGROUND

GSB 267 Bluish Grey **laminates**, price upon request, from Greenlam. **Wall panel mouldings**, price upon request, from The Interior Library.

Other items, stylist's own. ▶



Wallaby, price upon request,
from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT

Feather **pillow**, cotton Oxford
off-white **pillowcase**, French
feather thin single **duvet**,
cotton Oxford off-white
duvet cover, Indian cotton
high-density satin hotel-use
fitted sheet, Ecru Indian
organic cotton waffle **cloth**,
and XL Ecru plain weave
linen cushion **slipper**, all from
Muji. Lucie Kaas mint-green
creamer, from Bloesem.

BACKGROUND

WBR 5431 Sweet Almond
laminated, price upon request,
from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ➤







Zebra, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT
Caravaggio **floor lamp** by Light Years, from W. Atelier. Design **books** by Luster, from Bloesem. Herman Miller Nelson Coconut **lounge chair**, from Xtra. Reindeer **fur**, from Dreamweave & Other Stories. Sissi **coffee table** by Novamobili, from W. Atelier. Geometry espresso **cups**, and Thermo black **jug**, both from Grafunkt.

ON WALL
PVB 5617 Prismatic **laminare**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

ON FLOOR
Sillerup **rug**, from Ikea. CDZ 5409 Alaskan **laminare**, price upon request, from Greenlam. ▶





Baby lion and **African lynx**, price upon request, both from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT
My First Bike **balance bicycle**, from Lush. Fine Little Day pear **poster**, Tas-ka Lommer Blue (50cm by 50cm) **cushion**, Lommer Pink (35cm by 50cm) **cushion**, all from Bloesem. Tegu Discovery set **cubes**, Miller Goodman Shapemaker **cubes**, and Ostheimer wooden **musk ox figure**, all from Stranglets. Armadillo & Co Daisy Sherbet **rug**, Numero 74 **bunting**, **tepee**, and **futon**, all from Cuckoo.

ON WALL
GSC 169 Rose Pink **laminare**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

ON FLOOR
GWK 5003 Philippine Teak **laminare**, price upon request, from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ➤



ABOUT THE ANIMALS

No animals were harmed in the making of this feature. Once living creatures, these amazingly lifelike "sculptures" are now the proud work specimens of Ken Mar, Singapore's best-known taxidermist.

Most animal skins for taxidermy are obtained when the animals have died of natural causes or illness. Imported skins have to be certified by our Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA).

Raccoon, price upon request, from Kenmar Wildlife.

FROM LEFT
Bowen writing **desk**, and **desk lamp**, price upon request, both from Commune. Fritz Hansen Series 7 **chair**, from W. Atelier. Analog **clock**, and wooden **stand**, both from Muji. **Books**, price upon request, from Books Actually. Palomino Blackwing **pencils**, each; vintage **brushes**, and **tin pitcher**, all from Bloesem. Holden **vase**, price upon request, and Manzanita **gold branches**, price upon request, both from Crate & Barrel.

BACKGROUND
WBR 107 Wool White and GWC 5018 Brooks Walnut **laminates**, price upon request, both from Greenlam.

Other items, stylist's own. ●



ON THE DESIGN MAP



Thailand is already known for its traditional craftsmanship, but its design scene is evolving to keep up with international trends. Banking on the country's rich heritage and natural resources, local designers are coming up with smart and sensitive high-quality designs that will make you take a second look. We bring you the highlights from the Bangkok International Gift Fair and Bangkok International Houseware Fair 2015.



△
**MASONRY
SHELVING SYSTEM
BY PLURAL
DESIGNS**

The Masonry shelving system has an award-winning design, which allows you to personalise it according to your space, and what you want to display. Five modules in varying sizes provide the flexibility for various arrangements – whether combined, or left as individual units – while the hassle-free joint system lets you easily manipulate it to accommodate new objects or spaces.

www.pluraldesigns.net

▷
**1+1 SIDE TABLE
BY OGGI**

This piece may look simple, but its design is ingenious. Not only is the award-winning 1+1 a side table, but it is also a stool and a magazine holder! Finished in neutral wood tones, you can personalise it by displaying reading material of your choice, and adding a pop of colour to your space. Its contemporary form and versatility make it perfect for any small room.

www.oggi-living.com



◁
**HAND-WOVEN
OUTDOOR
FURNITURE
BY YOTHAKA**

Using colourful hues, interesting silhouettes and unique materials, Yothaka offers an exciting array of designer outdoor furniture. The handcrafted pieces are made with natural materials such as pineapple fibre paper, water hyacinth fibre, rattan and Yan Lipao (a fern vine that grows in abundance only in the forests of southern Thailand), as well as non-toxic, recyclable synthetic materials. Established in 1989, the company is said to have pioneered the use of water hyacinth fibre in the local furniture industry. Complementary accessories, such as trays, baskets, candlesticks and lamps, are also available.

www.yothaka.com



△
**QUIRKY DESIGNS
BY PARAWOOD
DESIGN**

These visually stimulating creations by Parawood Design are made using rubber wood (or parawood) and medium-density fibreboard, and features unconventional shapes and vibrant colours. Sofas, display cases and bookcases have designs inspired by everyday objects and scenes with a "special identity or character", such as London's iconic red telephone box and the canal houses by the Amstel river in the Netherlands (pictured).

www.parawooddesign.net

▷
**FIGHTING FISH
COLLECTION OF
ARMCHAIRS BY
ONE-D STUDIO**

If you recognise these flamboyant colourful wing-back chairs, perhaps it's because you've seen them at Bangkok's Siam Center. One-D Studio initially made the Fighting Fish hand-stitched fabric patchwork chairs for the public areas of the shopping mall, drawing inspiration from the curves and colours of Siamese fighting fish. Also available as a two-seater sofa, each piece is a work of art, featuring a unique pattern with specially selected fabrics. "Customers won't know the exact design they're getting until they receive the chair!" says designer Piya Phasukh.

www.one-dstudio.com



△
**FILOBULA INTERCHANGEABLE
FURNITURE BY DOTS DESIGN
STUDIO**

Filobula by Dots Design Studio is about creating new combinations of furniture using the same elements. The Filo bed and sofa share the same backing – that acts as the headboard or backrest – which users can easily detach and use interchangeably. This concept was also applied to the Macaron stool and bench (pictured), where upholstered seats in various colours can be swapped around to match bases with different wood tones.

www.dotsobject.com



IRON WALL ART BY FINE26

Bangkok-based Fine26 makes use of iron to craft nature-inspired "sculptures" for your walls. Featuring elements such as leaves or fish, each piece has an intricate design that is hammered-out and spray-painted by craftsmen. Choose from the designs available, or customise your own. Regardless of size, each piece has been designed to be flat-packed and easily put together by the user.

www.fine26.com

FURNITURE DESIGNS USING PAPER BY AYODHYA

Ayodhya turns mulberry paper, as well as recycled newspaper, into contemporary furniture and decor. Combining them with materials such as glass and metal, the company creates striking 3-D forms for tables, stools, lighting, mirrors and more. Thanks to the sculptural quality of the designs, the perception of the humble material is elevated, as the paper gives each piece a soft touch.

www.ayodhyatrade.com

SOFT FURNISHINGS MADE OUT OF LEFTOVER FABRICS BY BUA BHAT

Bua Bhat applies traditional weaving skills to leftover fabrics from garment factories to produce fashionable soft furnishings for the home. Based in a Chiang Mai village, the company employs local housewives, allowing them to have an income while staying home to look after their children. Bedspreads, throw cushions, rugs and curtains are examples of the attractive, highly textured handmade soft furnishings available. The brand also exhibited at the International Furniture Fair Singapore 2015 earlier this year.

www.buabhat.com



A TALE OF WOOD AND CLAY BY YARNNAKARN ART & CRAFT STUDIO & ATELIER 2+

A Tale Of Wood And Clay is a whimsical collection of storage cabinets and display shelves by Yarnnakarn Art & Craft Studio and Atelier 2+. Wood comes together with ceramic birds, butterflies and more, expressing the poetic concept of "coexistence between man and nature". Yarnnakarn Studio is known for its quaint ceramic pottery designs, and Atelier 2+ for its art-inspired product designs.

www.yarnnakarn.com,
www.ateliertwoplus.com



What's Trending

Here are three things that Thai designers and manufacturers are currently embracing.



REFINED WOOD

Making furniture and decor out of wood is nothing new in Thailand, but designers and manufacturers are fabricating items with more refined, modern interpretations using traditional methods.

As seen at Pana Objects, Chabatree (pictured) and Exact, lifestyle accessories and home decor have almost minimalist aesthetics, with smooth, gentle silhouettes.

www.pana-objects.com, www.chabatree.com,
www.exactintertrade.co.th

AS GOOD AS NEW

With the increasing global awareness of sustainability, many are adopting eco-friendly resources and procedures to create trendy and stylish furniture and furnishings. Examples of such companies include Sonite (which uses acrylic scraps and other discarded substances, such as coffee grounds), Sabai-D (which upcycles reclaimed wood, painting them in attractive colours) and Bua Bhat (which utilises leftover fabric from factories).

www.sonitesurfaces.com, www.iamsabai-d.com,
www.buabhat.com



COOL ART

Industrial qualities aside, the ornamental potential of metal is gaining recognition. Local companies, such as Fine26 (using iron), Boonchan Steel Art Design (using steel) and 5ive Sis (using pewter, pictured), are making the most of the material's cool, shiny appearance and malleability to create beautiful and complex contemporary art and decorative objects.

www.fine26.com, www.5ivesis.com ●

THE ECO-FRIENDLY KITCHEN

The kitchen is the heart of the home, where we gather to cook the food that nourishes and sustains our bodies. Sustainability in the kitchen is of utmost importance; it's where we begin to understand that nourishing our bodies requires bounty from nature. In making sure we sustain ourselves, we come to see that we must first sustain the world. Snaidero understands this, and understands it well.

With over 65 years' worth of experience in fitting kitchens, the Italian-made brand aims for sustainable growth, seeking to contribute towards meeting today's needs without compromising the future. Beyond standards and certifications, the brand looks to improve overall well-being in the home by imparting a greening touch to all their products. Dedicated research and a deep-seated respect for the environment and people's health would pave the way to innovation, which would, of course, manifest itself in all Snaidero products.

WATER-BASED COATINGS

Coatings are typically applied to surfaces, and serve to protect these surfaces from wear and tear. While many coatings incorporate solvent-based diluents, Snaidero has used water-based diluents since 2006 to aid the application process, reducing the emission of volatile organic compounds into the environment by 95%. Water-based diluents ensure that only harmless water vapour is released. They are odourless, non-flammable, and stand at exceedingly low toxicity levels, which is why they are regarded as a viable,

environmentally-friendly option, especially for kitchen fixings.

CERTIFIED MATERIALS

Snaidero only uses materials certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Pledging support to the international, non-governmental organisation, the brand stands for responsible management of forests and plantations. The plan is to ensure fewer forests are subject

to destruction and exploitation through illegal timber commerce, whilst concurrently engaging in improving the rights of local people and workers.

LOW EMISSION PANELS

As with any other industry, there are skeletons in the wood industry, with one exceedingly harmful to both human and environment. The production of ureic resin incorporates extensive use of

formaldehyde, a hazardous substance known to affect the respiratory system. These resins are often used in coatings and adhesives which easily find their way into our furnishings and homes. Snaidero's kitchens are crafted using extremely low formaldehyde-emitting panels that comply with the standards of one of the strictest international certification boards, the Californian Air Resources Board (CARB).



Interfal Design Sdn Bhd

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www.interfal.com.my | www.snaidero.com

snaidero
CUCINE PER LA VITA
www.snaidero.it



GLOBAL DESIGN AT LARGE

Designers from all over the globe descended upon Milan's central districts during the city's design week to show off their work, which resulted in more than a thousand events around town.

Known as Fuorisalone, these showcases in popular zones such as Ventura Lambrate and Zona Tortona broadened our minds with their experimental designs; the cultural 5vie Art + Design quarter demonstrated that luxe designs can be weird and wonderful at the same time; and the Brera district was brimming with inspiration, thanks to the impressive design installations in various showrooms.

Here are the brands and designers that stood out – we suggest you keep them on your design radar for the year ahead.



Singapore

Fresh, exciting concepts dominated Singapore's design contingent at the La Triennale di Milano.

THE ALCHEMISTS

The Alchemists' exhibition featured themed works by Singaporean talents, with the aim of expressing the magic of alchemy through design. Two pieces which hit the nail on the head are Hans Tan's Pour table, which showcases the beauty of coloured resin when cast without a mould, and Lanzavecchia & Wai's Fool's Gold cabinets (pictured), which elevated the value of corrugated steel sheets with gold-chrome car wrap.

www.alchemists.sg



America

We were awed by the many stunning showcases put up by American design brands.

HERMAN MILLER

In a stimulating exhibition held in its Corso Garibaldi showroom, contemporary and classic Herman Miller furniture were upholstered in Scholten & Baijings' designs for textile company Maharam. The large motifs enabled few repeats, lending individuality to each upholstered piece of furniture.

www.hermanmiller.com



CAESARSTONE

Housed within the majestic Palazzo Serbelloni palace, Caesarstone held a much-talked about installation that presented graphic vases by Canadian designer Philippe Malouin. The geometric designs, which showcase traditional inlay and marquetry, demonstrate the versatility of the brand's solid surfaces.

APPARATUS

New York-based design studio Apparatus took over a disused shop unit in the 5vie Art + Design district, and set up a gallery-like showcase of its sculptural lighting fixtures. The lights bring aged brass, leather, porcelain, and even horsehair, together in a modern fashion, while embodying a hint of vintage aesthetics.

www.apparatusstudio.com



The Netherlands

Known for their offbeat and often humorous designs, Dutch designers continued to delight the crowd this year with arresting pieces.

STUDIO SYBRANDY

Inspired by the iridescent beauty of soap bubbles, artist designer Nienke Sybrandy's products are simple and playful. They include the Bubblewrap blanket made of mohair wool and cotton, Powers of Soap tea towels, and Double Bubble tablecloths (pictured) that utilise shimmery Lurex to mimic the rainbow-like tint of bubbles.

www.studiosybrandy.nl



Read about Marcel Wanders' passion for collaborating with young designers at www.tinyurl.com/MarcelWandersMilan.

MOOOI

Returning to its exhibition space at Via Savona, the Dutch powerhouse put together another design extravaganza, bringing new and old products, and artist Rahi Rezvani's haunting photographs, together in imaginative settings. Moooi's covetable pieces for the home this year include the larger-than-life Arion rocking unicorn (pictured, above) by Marcel Wanders and a large collection of digitally printed carpets (pictured, right) featuring audacious, high definition artworks by various artists and designers.

www.moooi.com





NLXL

Famed for his books on everyday household objects, Frenchman Daniel Rozensztroch's collaboration with Dutch wallpaper manufacturer NLXL resulted in something delightfully eccentric – the Obsession series, which features dozens of hanger, toothbrush and spoon designs.

www.nlxl.com



LAIVE

Dutch design label Laive distributes a host of items that straddle art and design, including quirky plant sculptures designed by Wandschappen, a studio made up of designers Nicole Driessens and Ivo van den Baar, who love craft and textiles. These "plants" are made entirely out of wool felt – perfect for those who aren't blessed with a green thumb!

www.wandschappen.nl



MARK STURKENBOOM

As a young artist who creates products that go beyond basic functionality, Mark Sturkenboom's works can often be passed off as strange sculptures. But take a closer look, and you'll be rewarded with a surprise. For example, Watching Time Fly By is a clever play on the idiom as it features a fly that makes one round every minute, allowing one to – literally – watch time fly by.

www.marksturkenboom.com



SOON SALON

Designed by Kai Linke and Johannes Hemann, Soon Salon's new Catching the Wild hanger successfully captures both the excitement of the Wild West and the humour that's ubiquitous in Dutch designs.

www.soon salon.com



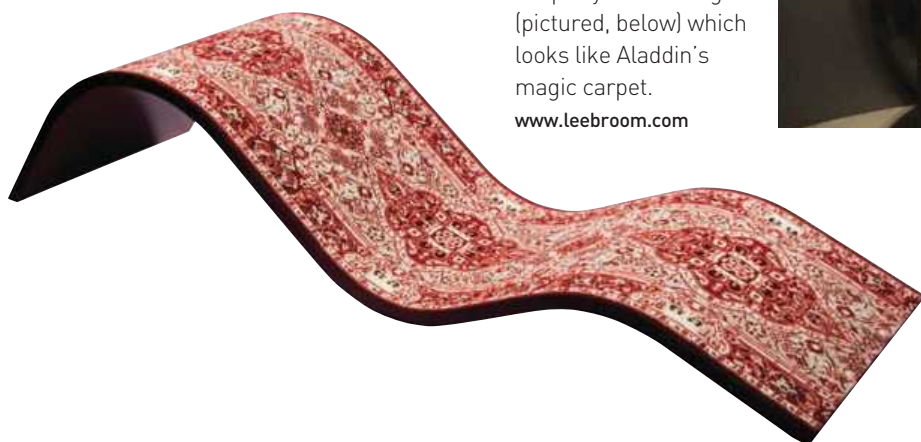
Britain

New products aside, we had to give it to the Brits this year for putting up unforgettable site-specific showcases.

LEE BROOM

Over 20 new products – from furniture to tabletop items – were launched at Lee Broom's The Department Store, where nostalgia was in full force. Outstanding pieces include the playful Hanging Hoop chair, elegant Millinery Ring lights (pictured, right), and the amusing Carpetry chaise longue (pictured, below) which looks like Aladdin's magic carpet.

www.leebroom.com



MADE IN RATIO

As a brand that fully embraces technological advances in furniture manufacturing, Made in Ratio's new stackable Alpha chair, which is entirely created by a digital woodcarving machine, comes as no surprise. Compared to the time-consuming practice of manual woodcarving, the CNC router machine is able to create the chair's architectural A-shaped back and legs in a significantly shorter amount of time.

www.madeinratio.com

SE

London-based brand Se put up a gorgeous exhibition at the Spazio Rossana Orlandi, presenting its luxurious new collection within an elegantly storied space. Made in collaboration with Slovenian designer Nika Zupanc, the range includes sofas, chairs, mirrors and cabinets with a vintage, feminine slant.

www.se-london.com





TOM DIXON

A pop-up Tom Dixon exhibition was set up within an old cinema in the heart of the city, where the new Melt (pictured, above) and Lens (left) lights, as well as Wingback chair, were unveiled and made available for sale – deferring from the conventional practice of presenting prototypes at the Milan Design Week.

www.tomdixon.net



H FURNITURE

The Pie Chart System by design studio Herve for H Furniture consists of four pieces that can be grouped together in various permutations to create playful forms. The quarter and half modules can be flushed against a wall or sofa to maximise smaller spaces.

www.hfurniture.co.uk



PLUMEN

The well-loved Plumen bulbs now have a new “dress” to throw on. Created by 3-D printing design brand Formaliz3d, the Kayan lampshade has a silhouette that echoes the iconic curves of energy-efficient light bulbs.

www.plumen.com



GIOPATO & COOMBES

Anglo-Italian duo Giopato & Coombes drew parallels of the “immateriality of light” with the lightness of soap bubbles. The Bolle lamp, which involves hand-blown glass, was created in an attempt to immortalise the beautiful moment when bubbles collide, before exploding.

www.giopatocoombes.com

COTTO

Recognised for his refined aesthetics, designer Piero Lissoni took fundamental patterns, such as lines and grids, to create stylish ceramic tiles for Cotto's Patchwork collection. Its subtle patterns, coupled with colour variations such as dark blue and graphite, bring an elegance that's quintessentially Italian, to washrooms.

www.cotto.com



Italy

Both established and emerging Italian brands continue to explore ways to stay ahead of the game.



GIAN PAOLO VENIER

The new Na_Na collection by designer Gian Paolo Venier reinterprets grandiose, classical furniture with a contemporary twist. He has also incorporated portions of 19th century French artist Gustave Dore's engravings in the Pepper side tables and Dill shelf.

www.gianpaolovenier.com

PIETRO TRAVAGLINI

Stratosfera is a space-efficient coffee table by Pietro Travaglini that combines art, design, and a dose of science-fiction fantasy. While it's a sphere when closed, it can expand into four interconnected coffee tables of varying heights, making it a nifty piece for those who entertain a lot at home!

www.pietrotravaglinidesign.com

KARTELL

In a colourful homage to the late architect and designer Ettore Sottsass, who was a core member of the 1980s Memphis design movement, Kartell launched a collection of unproduced pieces he designed in 2004. It includes pop-coloured vases, stools, and a pendant light. In addition, Kartell's flagship store was done up in a riot of colours that represented the movement's aesthetics!

www.kartell.com



Denmark

Time-honoured concepts of functionality continue to govern Danish designs seen at this year's exhibitions.

FRITZ HANSEN

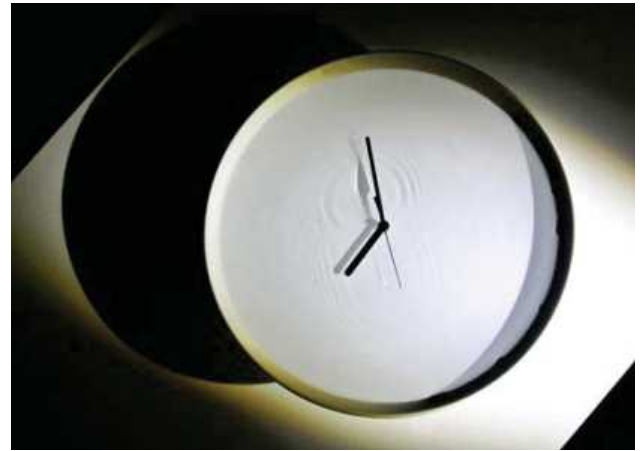
In the wake of the popular Fritz Hansen Ro chair, Jaime Hayon has followed up with the Fri ("free" in Danish) chair. Compared with the enveloping Ro, Fri (pictured, below) has a lower back, allowing users more interaction with their surroundings. The upholstered Sammen dining chair is another new design by the Spanish designer that was introduced in Fritz Hansen's newly refurbished showroom. www.fritzhenzen.com

Jaime Hayon talks about working with Fritz Hansen at www.tinyurl.com/JaimeHayonMilan.



KAREN LUNDMARK

The Weave chair was created by Karen Lundmark, a furniture design student at Denmark's VIA University College, in an attempt to lengthen the lifespan of unwanted clothing. She invited visitors to "create" the chair by weaving pieces of textiles through its metal frame, and says that she hopes this design will encourage people to think about how much they're consuming – and discarding. www.karenlundmark.wix.com/lundmarkdesign



TAKT PROJECT

The Dye It Yourself chair by Japanese design studio Takt Project blends the convenience of mass production with the exclusivity of handcrafted products. The idea is for consumers to take home a standard white plastic chair, and personalise it by dipping it in dye. www.taktproject.com



TOKYO DESIGN WEEK

Student works drew a lot of attention at the Tokyo Design Week showcase, thanks to their good-looking and clever concepts. These include the Yurari bench by Hiromi Aramaki, Shiori Sugiyama, and Tomomi Suzuki, which injects fun into public benches, and the Hamon clock (pictured, above) by Kensho Miyoshi, which has hands resting on the surface of the water to create hypnotic ripples as it ticks away. www.tokyodesignweek.jp



Japan

No strangers to the international design scene, Japan's emerging designers prove that they still have so much more to offer.

7 SMALL SPACE DESIGN RULES – DEBUNKED!

Forget all your preconceived notions about designing a small space – we tell you why breaking the rules can work, too!





Rule 1

Use only light or neutral colours

WHY BREAK IT

While it is true that white spaces appear larger, dark shades can work their own magic, giving your space mood, and visually downplaying the area's compact dimensions. Furthermore, dark colours are more forgiving and help hide architectural flaws.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Rather than using jet black, which can look tacky, go for deep, elegant hues such as navy blue, chocolate brown and charcoal, as used on the walls of this 818sqf apartment. Layer various shades to create depth, and balance with some light colours in soft furnishings or upholstery to keep it from looking monotonous. Add some shiny objects for contrast and interest! ➤

Rule 2

Keep furniture simple

WHY BREAK IT

Statement furniture (such as oversized pieces or those with bold designs) can actually make a small room feel more spacious. With a great statement piece, visual drama is created, which draws the eye away from the physical boundaries of a room.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Go with one or two prominent pieces – at most – that are functional, and place them strategically to create a focal point. For seating, as exemplified in the living room of this 484sqf flat, choose larger pieces that can comfortably accommodate more people, rather than many small seats that will make the space look untidy.



design D'HAUS

Rule 3

Don't waste space with a bathtub

WHY BREAK IT

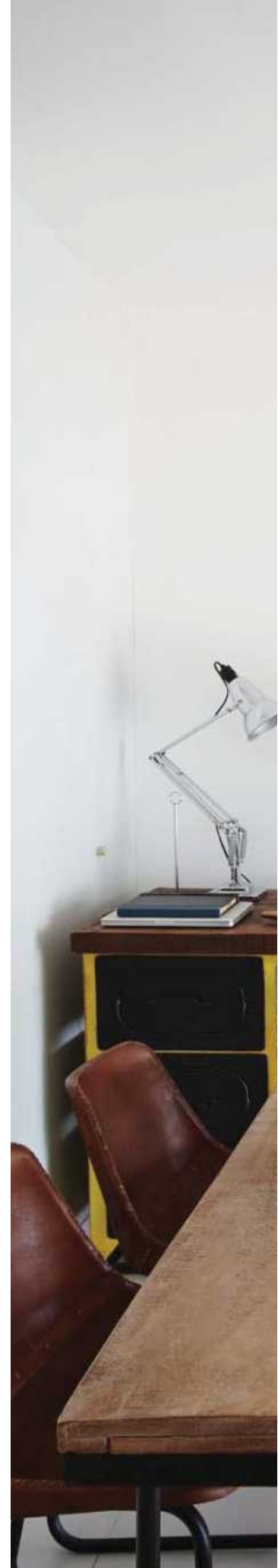
You may think that standing showers are more practical, in terms of time and space constraints, but a bathtub can make your bathroom much more luxurious. It is possible to fit a more compact version into, say, a flat bathroom, too!

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Install a Japanese soaking tub, which has a smaller foot print but are much deeper, with built-in seats. Or, as seen in this compact shower area, squeeze in a vintage-style claw-foot tub, which is not as long as contemporary models. Free-standing designs such as these don't require extra space for a deck, so they're ideal. Also, look for models which can take shower attachments, so you can also use the tub as a shower tray.



design SPACE SENSE





Rule 4

Choose lamps that are small and compact

WHY BREAK IT

Since lights are the jewellery of a room, an oversized lamp can make a fabulous statement in a small space! Not only will an oversized piece help pull a room's look together, but it will also visually enlarge the room by emphasising the ceiling height (as seen on the left), or a long wall, for example.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

To create drama without complicating the look, choose a lamp design that echoes the aesthetics of your space – clean silhouettes to match a minimalist setting, or colours that match other objects. Also, don't use oversized lamps for all your lights — pick just one or a matching pair, such as these pictured below. They relate to the colours and shapes of the tables in the living room of the 640sqf three-room flat. ▶



Rule 5

Keep walls plain

WHY BREAK IT

Make the most of a room's height with a patterned feature wall, which takes up zero floor area. As the easiest way to add a wow factor, a decorative wall can transform an otherwise plain space easily!

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Concentrate on just one wall so as not to overwhelm the room. As seen in this cosy and understated bedroom (pictured, above), the patterned feature wall acts as a backdrop for the bed, allowing the homeowner to do away with a headboard. Ensure that the patterns and colours are in harmony with the rest of the home's elements – for example, in this apartment (pictured, right), where the monochromatic print complements the space's neutral hues. Materials you can use on the wall include tile, laminate, and wallpaper.



design WY-TO ARCHITECTS



design DREAMMETAL



Rule 6

Less is more

WHY BREAK IT

Yes, you should avoid cluttering up your home, but a small home doesn't have to mean a bare and boring one. So, don't be afraid to include decor accessories to let your personality shine through.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Display knick-knacks, souvenirs and other accessories in an odd corner or an area that would otherwise be wasted. Keep items off the floor; instead, make use of wall-mounted shelves, bookcases and ledges, as seen in this charming bathroom. Curate your showcase – pick objects of a similar scale to keep it looking neat.



Rule 7

Decorate only in one style

WHY BREAK IT

Instead of restraining your decorating style, integrating a variety of styles makes your space more casual and the overall decor scheme less “trendy” and more timeless. Plus, you can easily add new pieces and swop them around for versatility within a small space.

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH IT

Follow a consistent colour theme so that your home looks cohesive, even though you have various objects with different styles. Furnish such that pieces are mixed throughout the room, rather than grouped according to styles, so it doesn’t visually cut up the space. In this 500sqf studio apartment (pictured, left), contemporary stools are mixed with a vintage-style chair around the dining table. ●



WHAT MAKES A BED

There's a reason beds in furniture shops take on the appearance of plush clouds, perfectly made and so very comfortable to sink into. The professionals are in the know here – a bed is more than just a piece of furniture. The perfect bed combines aesthetics with good design, comfort and the wherewithal to get you through a good, undisturbed night's slumber.



photo IKEA

So what makes a bed?

A BED FRAME

The primary thing many first time bed-buyers tend towards considering is the frame. After all, we delight first with our eyes, thus making the design of the bed frame a matter of utmost importance. However, there are various other factors to consider before choosing a bed frame. How large is your bedroom? Will your bed be afforded a great deal of space? Will the bed frame you're eyeing fit into the overall design of your bedroom? Will the bed frame provide enough support for your mattress, as well as for you and your sleeping habits?

In general, these are the types of bed frames available:

Canopy beds are very decorative, often serving as the centrepiece of the bedroom. Four high posts at each corner of the bed supports a frame above, over which the canopy is fitted. Canopy beds can also be fitted with curtains that surround the sides of the bed. These beds require a lot of space. ➤

BELOW
Antonio Citterio's Alcova bed for Maxalto features beams that can be dressed up with flowing drapes, or left as they are, a combination of simplicity and beauty in one. Available from Space.



Additional storage is a blessing, especially when you want a clutter-free home! The Malm bed frame comes equipped with drawers beneath the mattress, so you'll always have room to store additional pillows, linens, and quilts. Available from Ikea.

BOTTOM RIGHT

Contrary to popular belief, sofa beds lack not an ounce of comfort provided by regular beds. The Friheten sofa bed can be dressed up with plenty of bedding and quilts, ensuring a soft, plush sleep every night. Available from Ikea.





Captain's beds provide additional storage by means of drawers built into the bottom of the bed frame, over which the mattress sits.

Day beds are perfect for small spaces that need to perform multiple functions. By day a seating option for communal television-watching or book-reading, and by night a comfortable bed, day beds provide the versatility many need in furnishing.

Four poster beds are a classic design. As the name would suggest, these beds have four posts at the corners. They may or may not have headboards and footboards. Depending on the style of design, the posts, headboards and footboards may be elaborate or simple.

Loft and bunk beds make the most of space through elevation, perfect for students' bedrooms or dormitories. Popular choices include fitting study desks or couches

beneath loft beds, whilst bunk beds allow for two beds in the space of one.

Mission beds are a classic design for simplicity with vertical slats running down the headboard and footboard. They are understated and modern in design, but offer stability by way of their clean lines.

Platform beds are low beds that negate the need for box springs. Generally minimalistic in design, they're perfect for modern and contemporary bedroom designs.

Sleigh beds are perfect for traditional bedrooms. Usually crafted of wood, these beds incorporate headboards and footboards that curve outwards, reminiscent of Scandinavian sleighs and snowy winter evenings.

Sofa beds provide ample room for guests. Both space and cost effective, the sofa beds of today are stylish to boot, and can be folded up when not in use. ➤



A BED BASE

The base of your bed plays the ever important role of support. While the base of your bed is, most times, determined by the type of frame you want to purchase, these are the options you can go with.

A slatted base is suitable for bedsteads, requiring the use of a midbeam for added support where beds larger than singles are concerned. Naturally, the type of slats required to support

your mattress depends on its weight, as well as the size of the bed. Most slatted bases are made to endure wear and tear, however. Make sure the distance between the slats does not go beyond 10 centimetres, as this will increase the rate at which your mattress deteriorates.

A box spring is a fully solid base that supports your mattress fully. A wooden box, covered in cloth and containing springs, acts as a base. It is

often supported by steel beams or casters that hold it above the floor, though sometimes these are deemed unnecessary. Box springs often come with headboards as part of a package deal, and are a fuss-free, simple, and practical choice if you prefer utilitarian options.

A storage base ties in with captain's beds, where the base of the bed comprises drawers that can be used for unused bedding and linens.

NEXT PAGE
There is no hard or fast rule in choosing a mattress. Make your decision based on how you sleep, and what kind of support your back requires.

BELOW
Box spring bed bases are practical and fuss-free. Giuseppe Vigano's Bolton Bed for Poliform plays on simple themes and clean lines. Available from Space.



A MATTRESS

The mattress you choose is literally going to be the royal of the bedroom. Is it a king, or is it a queen? There is more to consider in picking a mattress, however. Different materials provide different levels of comfort. It's important to test out a mattress before you buy it, so do make sure to check if your retailer provides that service. In general, you'll want to pick a mattress that best fits your sleeping posture, one that provides ample support and cushioning for your spine.

Sprung mattresses

provide a fair bit of bounce. Metal coils within the mattress serve as the primary support system for the body. The thickness of the coils, as well as the way they are coiled, play important roles in the overall bounce of the mattress. In general, the thicker the coil, the less bounce and more support you'll get. Inter-connected coils are also longer-lasting, though susceptible to the rippling effect in the case of bed-sharing. Pocketsprung mattresses, on the other hand, are composed of individual springs in fabric pockets that are lined up side by side throughout the mattress, providing support individually. These allow for the mattress to contour and adjust to body movement. Spring mattresses are usually filled with cotton, wool, foam, or polyester.

Foam mattresses are perfect for those who prefer a firmer bed with fuller support. Generally comprised of different layers of foam, each of a different density, foam mattresses provide ample comfort throughout a night's rest. **Memory foam** (viscoelastic) mattresses in particular do not sink very much when pressure

is applied, and responds to individual shapes by contouring around them. They are therefore able to provide pressure relief while you sleep, the foam moulding to your body as you sleep and evenly distributing your weight. Similar in feel to memory foam, **latex mattresses** are resilient and long-wearing, with a natural elasticity that enables even distribution of pressure. Natural latex also boasts anti-microbial properties, while simultaneously resisting mold and dust mites.

Gel mattresses are a recent introduction into the world of comfortable sleep. Memory foam mattresses are said to be a bit warm, due to the science of viscoelastic, which reacts to body heat and therefore moulds around the body. The solution? Gel mattresses. The idea is simple: gel mattresses include cooling gel beads, regulating airflow throughout the night.

A MATTRESS PROTECTOR

Mattress protectors essentially do as their name suggests – they reduce the effects of wear and tear upon your mattress. And if you're in the habit of eating, or serving breakfast in bed, the mattress protector will make sure any unfortunate spills are easily taken care of. Just throw the protector in the washing machine, and spare your expensive mattress the stain and grime! ➤

RIGHT
HÖVÅG pocket sprung
mattress and HAFSLO
sprung mattress,
available from Ikea.

BOTTOM RIGHT
MALVIK foam
mattress, available
from Ikea.





photo PORADA

PILLOWS

Like mattresses, pillows are made in a variety of different materials to suit the different needs of individuals. Memory foam pillows contour to the shape of your neck and head, reducing strain. Down and feather pillows are plush and comfortable. They are also breathable, moisture absorbent to allow for a pleasant and cool night's rest. Polyester

pillows, on the other hand, are inexpensive and effective, though they can sometimes be lumpy. They are easy to wash, and can usually be thrown into the washing machine without worry of damage.

Choose a pillow that best suits your style of sleep! Side sleepers should opt for firm pillows that provide good support for head, neck and shoulders. This is a pillow that

should help to keep the body vertical during sleep, so as to not strain the backbone. If you sleep on your back, you should choose pillows of medium thickness that maintains the natural curve of the spine throughout the night. And if you sleep on your chest, do choose a soft pillow that cushions your head and neck at a comfortable height and angle.

ABOVE
Pillows and quilts play an important role in a good night's sleep. There's comfort to be had in numbers, but you'll also want to make sure you pick the right pillow for your sleeping posture. Also be certain to choose the right quilt so you can sleep as warm and cool as you prefer.

Choose a pillow that best suits your style of sleep! Side sleepers should opt for firm pillows that provide good support for head, neck and shoulders.

A QUILT

In Malaysian weather, the necessity of a quilt is debatable. Still, quilts are a lovely part of putting a bed together, and can offer comfort in the form of warmth throughout colder nights and mornings, as well as in the cocooning effect they offer. How warm or cool a quilt is depends on how much filling goes in; warmer quilts have more, cooler quilts have less. Choose a quilt that provides the right amount of warmth for you.

Feather and down quilts, like pillows of the same filling, are breathable and plush. They retain heat, and are certain to keep you warm at night. Quilts filled with synthetic fibres are low maintenance, being very easy to clean. They also circulate air well, providing breathability, whilst retaining heat. Woollen quilts are perfect for both cold, and warmer nights, its natural fibres adjusting to be warmer when you are cold, and cooler when you are hot.

BED LINENS

What exactly does a thread count entail? In fabric, the thread count is essentially the number of vertical and horizontal threads woven through a single square inch of fabric. Generally, a higher thread count means the fabric is of a higher quality, but the quality of the cotton used is also of utmost importance. Choose fabrics that are breathable and soft; avoid anything that feels scratchy. Pure cotton sheets are cooling and soft, easy to maintain and long-lasting. Egyptian cotton sheets are luxuriously silky, thin and sumptuous, and yet durable. They are often regarded as the best in the market with their high thread counts. Linen, from the flax plant, has thermo-insulation qualities that keep you warm on cold nights, and cool on warm nights. However, they may require ironing, as they are prone to wrinkling. Poly blend sheets are also available in the market, and are easy to maintain.

BEDDING ACCESSORIES

Never underestimate the power of accessories in the bedroom. While they may be regarded as perhaps less essential, accessories can really add to the overall decor of your sleeping space. Extra pillows provide lift for leaning back if you're the sort who enjoys reading, or watching television in bed. Extra quilts provide warmth and comfort on nights where just one is not enough. Aesthetically, accessories for the bed can also help to pull the design of your bedroom together. Use throws, rugs and quilts to add texture and colour. Adding soft lighting also helps to set up a soothing ambience, especially perfect if you sleep with a night light. ●

BELOW

Linens and accessories can help to brighten up your bedroom, giving it a warmer and more comforting feel. M. Fossati's ics side table in solid Canaletta walnut is perfect for breakfast in bed. Available from Porada.



FOR BEDROOM LIGHTING TIPS, VISIT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM.P36VMPY](http://tinyurl.com.P36VMPY)



photo PORADA

TOP 20 BED LINENS

HOW DID THE BED COME TO BE? WHAT ABOUT THE TEXTILES USED TO DRESS THE BEDS? WE HAVE A LITTLE HISTORY LESSON FOR YOU.

The Bronze Age (3000 – 1000BC)

The Egyptian Pharaohs moved their beds from the ground and started to sleep on raised surfaces. Their beds were made from wood, and were inlaid with gold. Woven mats were placed on the bed-frame. Mattresses were made from reeds, and cushions from wool. The Egyptians primarily used linen for their bedding, which is probably why the term “bed linen” is used today.

The Iron Age (1000BC – 476AD)

Roman beds had supports beneath an outer metal frame. The supports were strips of metal woven in a crisscross pattern to support the mattress, which were filled with feathers or straw.

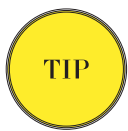
The Middle Ages (476 – 1200 AD)

Beds of Frankish nobility (of which King Charlemagne was part) had bed posts and were draped with fabric coverings. The beds were now heavier in construction and appearance. Vikings built platformed wooden slats to be used in their ships.

Considering new bedding? Here are our choices!

GO MONOCHROME

Monochromes make for elegant bedding, as the colours seamlessly transition into one another in the most harmonious manner possible. The Hugo Boss Galerie provides maximum comfort and beauty in soft greys, copper and white.



In general, it's safe to say that the higher the thread count, the more luxurious the bed linen will feel.



Linens are a vital part of our beds, providing a layer of hygiene and protection for the mattress. These are our picks for the best bed linens available on the market, so your beds will not only look, but feel great as well.

The Renaissance (1300 – 1600 AD)

Italian beds had canopies and four posts. The central platforms of the beds were made of ropes pulled through the side rails and headboards of the beds in a grid pattern. The phrase “sleep tight” came from the fact that these ropes had to be tightened from time to time. Canopies were used because homes had less space for separate rooms, so drapes could be placed around the canopy for privacy. Bedding came in the form of velvets, silks and brocades.

The Late Colonial Era (1700 – 1800 AD)

Importance was placed upon the structure of the bed instead of the art of its design. Textiles and bed hangings become more and more sumptuous due to the economic spread of colonial powers like France, England and Spain. Rare textiles from the four corners of the world were sought after and used. The bed became the most prized piece of furniture. Mattresses were made using cotton from the colonies.

The Industrial Revolution (1800-1899 AD)

Beds of simple design gave way to traditional, ornate ones. Mass production methods made beds cheap, so everyone could afford them. Coil springs were added into bedding for further comfort.

Modern Day (1900 – 2015 AD)

Bed design now varies depending on the different technological processes used in production. There are now beds made of any material imaginable, forming different styles from traditional to contemporary.



photo WHITE ROOM

AS PURE AS COTTON

White Room's Candace collection offers purity and luxury in pure cotton with a thread count of 500. These sheets are adorned with gentle petals.

DARK NAVY

With a deep blue base, the Octave collection by Olivier Desforges showcases a constellation motif complemented by candied chestnut tones. ➤



photo OLIVIER DESFORGES

photo IKEA



4

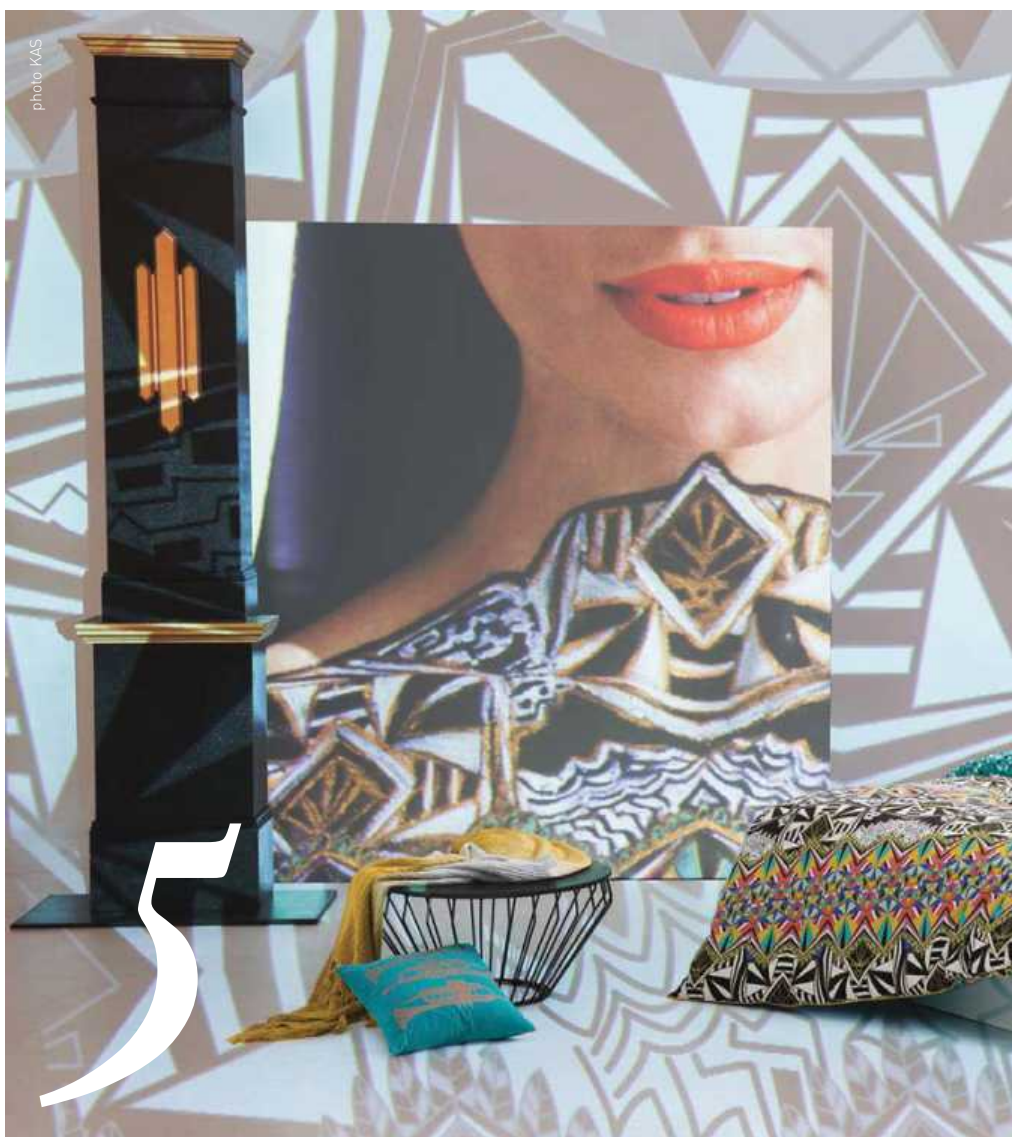
COLOURFUL BAUBLES

The IKEA Malin Rund collection comprises colourful circles amidst a field of white.

SNAZZY PRINTS

Tribal, geometric prints appear to be the chief motif of KAS' Cleo collection.

photo KAS



5

photo IKEA



6

PRINTED ANIMALS

If you have children who love animals, the IKEA Ängsspira is perfect for them. Elk antlers are a recurring motif on the pillowcases, while three majestic elks grace the main sheets.



7

BLUSH OF COLOUR

Demure flowers, thistles and hues of pink and purple grace the Calvin Klein Blush collection. Made in Pakistan and expertly-tailored in Italy, the collection is certain to add an elegant touch to your bedroom.

THE COLOURS OF NATURE

Imagine a wild landscape before your very eyes. The gold-and-olive drying grasses of summer beneath tall mahogany trees crowned with blue skies. This is what the Hugo Boss Jatoba collection is all about. Clothe your bed with this scene of nature and let your dreams unfold. [▶](#)

8



photo HUGO BOSS



photo IKEA

9

TAKE A DARWINIAN TURN

IKEA's Sissela collection sees flowers recorded in Darwinian form. Neatly arranged in rows, labelled, and presented in an orderly fashion, these flowers are inspiration for budding botanists.

ALL IN ORDER

The IKEA Smörboll collection is all about dots. Precisely ordered from large to small, the sheets employ a soothing progression in design.

10

photo IKEA



photo WHITE ROOM

II

WORSHIP THE SUN

Cassandra, the namesake of this collection by White Room, was a priestess of the Greek sun-god Apollo. She was given the power of clairvoyance. The white fabrics of this collection are reminiscent of the white gowns worn by Cassandra as a priestess, and the beautifully crafted suns that form on the surface of the fabric speak of Apollo.



photo OLIVIER DESFORGES

I2

CITRUS

The Zest collection by Olivier Desforges is one that reminds us of the simple pleasures of gardening. The stems of the design are pencil-sketched, and the flowers a lively lemon-yellow.

I3

BOLD PATTERNS

Embrace a patchwork of geometric patterns in a mind-numbing array of colours with the Serrano collection by KAS. The fabric is made of pure cotton, so comfort is paramount.



photo KAS

I4

PURE LINEN

Live like ancient Egyptian kings with H&M Home's linen bedding. Minimal colouring is used so as to preserve the organic feel of raw linen.



photo H&M HOME

GO DOTTY!

Polka dots are timeless motifs, and can be found everywhere, from Minnie Mouse's iconic dress to the 1960s summer hit, "Itsy Bitsy Teenie Weenie Yellow Polka Dot Bikini". The IKEA Stenklöver collection features white polka dots over a red background. ➤

I5



photo IKEA

I6

FRILLY THINGS

Return to an age of innocence with White Room's Catherine collection. With a thread count of 500, it is both comfort and simplistic beauty in one.

photo WHITE ROOM

PRETTY IN PAISLEY

The paisley pattern forms a kidney (or mango) shape, and originated from Persia. IKEA's Sötlomster collection captures a collection of different paisley prints, collated into one lively picture. It is perfect for anyone who wants to give their home a central Asian feel.

I7

photo IKEA

photo WHITE ROOM

18

SIMPLICITY IS THE KEY

Grandeur and luxury have their time and place, but sometimes, we just want to let simplicity reign supreme. White Room's Mason collection is constructed as such: simple folds in yarn-dyed, natural colours. This collection is for those who believe that the simplest details make the biggest impact.



19

PINSTripES

Look closely at the Tuvbräcka collection by IKEA and you will find that the stripes are not quite straight. This is because the design was hand-painted by the artist, who then digitally transferred the piece to a textile printer.

EMBROIDERED EMBELLISHMENTS

Nothing speaks of pure indulgence like a 900 thread count set of bedding, which is precisely what White Room's Preston collection is. The collection also boasts beautifully-embroidered motifs, creating sophistication amidst comfort. ●

20





5 INSPIRING STYLES FOR THE BEDROOM

The bedroom: a haven for sweet, sweet slumber. Here is where restful nights give way to good mornings, where comfort reigns supreme. The first and last thing you see in the morning and evening, your bedroom design can either make you feel completely at home, or utterly alienated in your own bed. Choose a design that suits you best and drifting off at night will literally be a dream.



photo SPACE

Modern

USE FLATS

Flat colour schemes are often used in contemporary design. Far from making a space seem dull or boring, a flat colour scheme, while lacking excessive embellishment, can impart a simplistic, modern elegance to any room. Using a flat colour scheme can also make a space seem less cluttered, perfect when used alongside the clever space-saving solutions so prevalent in today's interiors.

ACCESSORISE WITH TEXTURES INSTEAD OF PRINTS

While printed fabrics do indeed add life into the design of a room, too much of it can be overwhelming. Instead of prints, contemporary designs often incorporate textures into bedding accessories. Try wooly, quilted throws, or fur rugs; they'll liven up your decor, tastefully adding texture to break up the monotony of simplicity in your bedroom.

ADD SOME LEATHER

Nothing says style like leather. Try to incorporate throw cushions or other accessories of this sleek and versatile material in the bedroom if you're going for a modern feel. ▶

LEFT
Lauren Bed by
Roberto Lazzeroni
for Flexform Mood,
available at Space.

A flat colour scheme, while lacking excessive embellishment, can impart a simplistic, modern elegance to any room.



Rustic

FURNISH WITH PALE WOOD

A rustic style of decor is all about the simplistic countryside. Adornment is often nature-inspired and lacking pomp. Use pale, unlacquered woods for your furnishings, making sure the designs are functional and simple.

INCLUDE FLORAL PRINTS

Floral prints work wonderfully to accentuate a rustic vibe in decor. Choose light, pastel-hued florals, and pair with delicately coloured, or even white sheets to further complement the light and vibrant effect. When florals are not an option, try textured fabrics like knits and wools in pastel shades.

LIGHT IT UP

Windows and natural light play a huge role in rustic settings. The more open and airy your bedroom feels, the better your quality of sleep will be. To this end, try capitalising on the calming effect of pastel hues, or whitewashed walls. Use light, earthen tones for your curtains, and use matching hues for your bedding and other accessories.



FOR MORE RUSTIC HOME IDEAS, VISIT [HTTP://TINYURL.COM/PM36LJH](http://tinyurl.com/PM36LJH)

A rustic style of decor is all about the simplistic countryside. Adornment is often nature-inspired and lacking pomp.

ABOVE
Hurdal bed frame,
available from Ikea.

BOTTOM
Duken bed frame,
available from Ikea.

Mod and Retro

COMBINE CLASHING TONES

If the combination of teal and purple, orange and apple green, or yellow and fuchsia sound appealing, you should give the mod and retro look a try. Vintage accessories for the home often come in colours and shades, varying in intensity and tone. More often than not, in a vintage home, clashing colours are paired for effect, providing a burst of colour and giving your space an effervescent vibe.

USE WHITE TO YOUR ADVANTAGE

Too much of a good thing is most definitely a bad idea. To keep your bedroom from becoming a box of multicolour jelly beans, try limiting the colour usage to two or three. Break the colour up with a lot of white, which will help the colours to really pop!

LINE UP AND GO

Stripes and dots make up the majority of retro prints. Whether they're a combination of colours, or just a single vibrant hue, stripes and dots can instantaneously provide a space with a vintage feel. Try using them on throw cushions or pillows in the bedroom for a light touch of retro glam; too much may clutter the visuals of the room, which isn't ideal for winding down. [▶](#)

Vintage accessories for the home often come in colours and shades, varying in intensity and tone.



photo IKEA



photo VERONICA TAY

Classic European

ORNATE FURNISHINGS

The classic furnishings of the 1800s often evoke the splendour of the Georgian and Victorian eras. Also comparable to the beauty and timeless elegance of royal Versailles, this style of furnishing has perhaps become simplified throughout the ages, doing away with the excessive, whilst retaining the facets of design that make it, inherently, classic. If you're decorating your bedroom in the classic style, opt for ornate pieces like restored antiques, made beautiful with carvings and the gloss of lacquer.

INTRICATE FABRICS

Bedding and upholstery were often of the highest quality fabrics, intricately-woven to suitably match up to the elegance of the furniture. Choose fabrics like brocade that are richly decorative. Work with lighter colours like peach, cream, or baby blue, with the occasional touch of red. This will help to temper all the complex designs, bringing it all together in an eye-pleasing manner.

TUFT IT OUT

Tufted headboards, lounge chairs and armchairs are not a thing of the past. While they may at a first glance appear almost old-fashioned, tufted furnishings, when paired well with draperies and other accessories, radiate classical elegance.

The classic furnishings of the 1800s often evoke the splendour of the Georgian and Victorian eras.



photo SPACE

ABOVE
Maxalto Talamo
Bed, available
from Space.

Minimalist

LESS IS MORE

A minimalist bedroom upholds the ideals of the style, expressing the personality of its owner with as little as possible while maintaining ample levels of comfort. Far from being bare or spartan, a minimalist concept is simply one that incorporates common sense in a choice for furnishings. The bedroom is a space for rest and slumber, and so minimalist bedrooms exclude all forms of distraction that our modern world calls for: televisions, laptop computers, and so on.

WHITEWASH AND ADD SOME BLACK

Black and white are fast friends with the minimalist decor concept. Try using black and white with monochromatic hues like shades of brown in the bedroom. This will pave the way to uncluttered simplicity, allowing for your clean, unfettered design to shine through.

CLEAN, DISTINCT LINES

Minimalist furnishings often boast clean cut, distinct lines. Opt for sleek, angled corners in choosing your furniture. Lighting should be kept simple, yet sophisticated. If it's a clinical, futuristic feel you're after, try adding mirrors and steel for a reflective and glossy effect, which helps to achieve such. ●

Minimalist furnishings often boast clean cut, distinct lines.

ROCK SOLID EXCELLENCE

With nearly a century's worth of experience in innovation and design, the Roca name is well known in the bath industry for its commitment to sheer excellence.





Like so many other great names in global businesses, Roca came from humble beginnings in their Gava factory, which stands close to Barcelona. Once a producer of cast iron radiators for domestic heating, and then later, boilers, the company first delved into the business of bathrooms in the year 1929. They first produced baths.

Over the years, the company would continue to strengthen their product line up, constant in their mission to provide for their society in terms of relevant bathroom products. By the time 1954 had come around, the company had begun production of brassware, following production of vitreous china bathroom appliances.

The 1990s saw international expansion, with the company setting up commercial branches and agreements with local leading brands. The reach of the Roca brand grew wider and longer, from Portugal, to France, and then on to the United Kingdom, Germany, Italy, Russia, Morocco, Argentina, Brazil, and even to China, Asia. With the acquisition of the Swiss Keramik Holding Laufen in the year 1999, Roca further expanded their reach, this time in Eastern Europe and the United States of America. Today, the brand is present in over 135 nations, with 74 production plants and over 22,200 employees worldwide. ➤





While the figures have most certainly changed, one thing remains: Roca's dedication to quality, design, innovation, versatility, and sustainability. Most recently, the brand has dedicated itself to upholding sustainable bathroom spaces. As one of the world's largest brands in the business of water, they're passionate about managing said resource in their product line up.

In line with the major themes of the ISH Frankfurt 2015, the world's largest showcase for innovative bathroom design, energy-efficient heating, air-conditioning technology, and renewable energies, Roca unveiled New Horizons:

Bathrooms. Emotions. Solutions. With expertise and zeal, the brand continues to surge forward in the industry, ever determined to make sustainable bathroom solutions not merely a reality, but a norm.

Having won any number of notable awards throughout the years, including the award for Best Innovation in Functionality at the 2012 and 2013 Designer Kitchen & Bathroom Awards, to the Innovation award at the 2013 National Marketing Award, to the 2011 EMAS Eco Management and Audit Scheme Award, Roca continues in its quest for rock-solid excellence. What a wonderful quest this is. ●



With expertise and zeal, the brand continues to surge forward in the industry, ever determined to make sustainable bathroom solutions not merely a reality, but a norm.



A LOCAL FLAVOUR

Most elementary designs of Batik are incorporated with elements of nature, colours and motifs. Today, newer and “cleaner” designs are produced befitting a modern world. Designs differ by country, however. Witness how they have changed throughout the years and learn how to incorporate both batik and Peranakan-inspired furniture into your homes.





Batik came into existence 2000 years ago, when the Dutch brought the art to Indonesia. There, it was named Batik, derived from the Javanese word Ambatik which denotes cloth filled with little dots.

THE ORIGINS OF BATIK

Batik came into existence 2000 years ago, when the Dutch brought the art to Indonesia. There, it was named Batik, derived from the Javanese word Ambatik which denotes cloth filled with little dots. The dyed textile, of silk and cotton, was once a prized possession, owned only by wealthy families in Indonesia. Special designs were handcrafted for the exclusive use of royalty to symbolise their social status. And once the art spread across countries, from the middle-east to Japan, Africa and Malaysia, a diversity of patterns, rich with their respective cultures, was born.

DESIGNS BY COUNTRIES

Dissimilar to the designs of today, Ramayana batik depicts figurines with facial features such as those depicted in a Wayang Kulit. It is one of the earliest forms of design in Indonesia. It is unique, as it tells a story, unlike other traditional geometric Batik designs like Kawang, Ceplok, Parang and Betawi batik, some of which are believed to bring good luck, protection, victory, or to possess healing properties.

It is believed that traditional designs and colours such as

beige, blue, brown and black made from natural ingredients were used in Central Java (blue is the oldest colour, followed by brown). Chinese-influenced batik in the North Coast of Java, however, often depicts intricate designs such as flowers in bolder hues. Meanwhile, in Jogjakarta and Surakarta, gold leaf (otherwise known as Prada) was used for special occasions until it was replaced by gold paint.

In Malaysia, one is able to see the shift from traditional to modern Batik patterns. Traditional patterns come in layers, focusing on the soft curves of flowers, sharper edges, and geometric and intricate patterns in dark and bold colours. With time, the focus shifted to the use of linear shapes in depicting animal movements, while modern designs are "cleaner" with more evident white space. In later days, with newer techniques like screen painting and canting, designs were further simplified, which would of course affect the symbolic representation of traditional designs. The blues and browns gave way to more attractive shades of red, pink, purple and orange. ▴

INCORPORATING BATIK IN THE HOME

Batik is a refined craft that adorns many Peranakan homes. Larger pieces of Batik have many uses: as a whole on windows, as table runners, food covers (tudung saji), room dividers, room screens, bed spreads and altar cloths or in patchworks. And while Batik may be ornate in essence, there are more than a few ways to infuse Batik or Peranakan-inspired pieces into a modern home.

BATIK

1. Keep the amount of Batik elements to a minimum. Pairing them with a clean white wall balances up the decor to give it an air of modernity. For starters, try these Batik coasters. Made of fabric, they are embellished with patterns produced using the traditional canting method.

2. With Batiks in subtler hues, use dual-coloured cushions to break the monotony of the colour scheme incorporated within a room. Try using these bespoke hand drawn Batik cushions.

3. Keep your Batiks stacked up at asymmetrical and jagged angles. These Batik padded storage

boxes are sold separately, but come in a variety of traditional Batik designs. They can be used as functional decorative pieces storing coasters in a living room, or as jewellery boxes in bedrooms, or as a box for cutlery in the dining area.

4. Modern-contemporary rooms possess a plenitude of flexibility, which allows for the combination of traditional and modern edge designs. Bigger, bolder, softer and modern designs such as this bespoke hand drawn Batik cushion beautifully marry both Malay and Chinese cultures.

5. We love traditional Batik designs worked into modern

pieces like footstools. This allows us to embrace our local culture without giving up the comforts offered by modern furniture. This Batik block rectangle and Round footstool are fine examples of such.

6. Take Batik out of the living room and into the dining area. This complete dining set includes hand painted Nori Kebaya mini plates, napkin ring, tea cup, and saucer. Its simple design sets a beautiful contrast against the modern-geometric patterns of this hand-drawn Batik table runner and napkins.

All products are available from Kita-Kita.

1



3



4



2

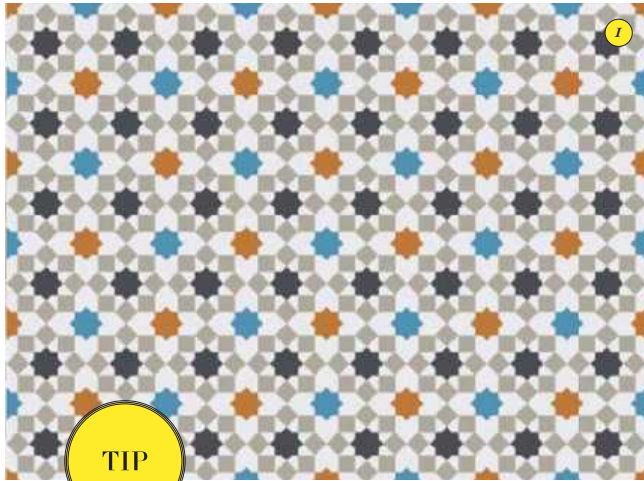


5



6





TIP

Use bigger and bolder prints for cushion covers. They are the perfect accessories to old-school furnishings like rattan chairs. Also try pairing them with framed fine textile designs to complete the look.

PERANAKAN

1. Use tiles to achieve a subtle Peranakan look in a room. These geometric shapes and colours may make a room look visually smaller, but cosy. The Marrakech Aqua tile collection is available from Kimgres.

2. A mix between modern-contemporary and traditional Nyonya motifs are available from Nala designs. Dress your home with placemats and cushion covers with unique

designs called My Kuih, or the Highway, or Pretty in Peranakan. Nala Designs shows us how to decorate our homes in true Peranakan fashion.

3. Ahnya-Chi offers traditional designs which focus on bold colours, as well as intricate Kebaya-centric designs that highlight the embroidery skills of two cultures. Ahnya-Chi shows us just how to pair Peranakan accessories with modern-industrial furniture. ●



photo FUNKY DELI



HOW TO GIVE YOUR SPACE A RETRO PUNCH

Welcome to an era where the past is not
forgotten, but renewed.



The retro style is one that imitates the aesthetics, styles, fashions and even attitudes of the recent past. The word is derived from Latin, where the prefix retro meant “in past times”. In his book, *Simulacra and Simulation*, French theorist Jean Baudrillard posited that “retro” was a demythologisation of the past. It created distance between the notions of the “modern” age and the present. However, this does not mean

that being retro means you completely recreate what has existed in the past. Rather, it is the modernisation of the near past, an attempt to reconcile fond memories of that period with the present.

We like to think that the word “retro” is also the adaptation of what had belonged in the past, in our present. With this in mind, here are some tips and tricks on how to bring retro into your home, room by room.

Kitchen and dining room

1. BRIGHT AND LOUD FRIDGES

The kitchens of the 1950s were all brightly coloured. This was perhaps intentional. The teals, oranges, pink and baby blues were used to “lighten the workload of women and reduce their drudgery”, according to the 1950 editors of *House Beautiful* magazine. To match the kitchens that they called home, fridges of the time were also brightly-hued. However, you don’t have to worry about these fridges’ capabilities: they may look retro, but they have all the makings of a high-tech fridge, from automatic defrost modes to adjustable temperature controls. ➤

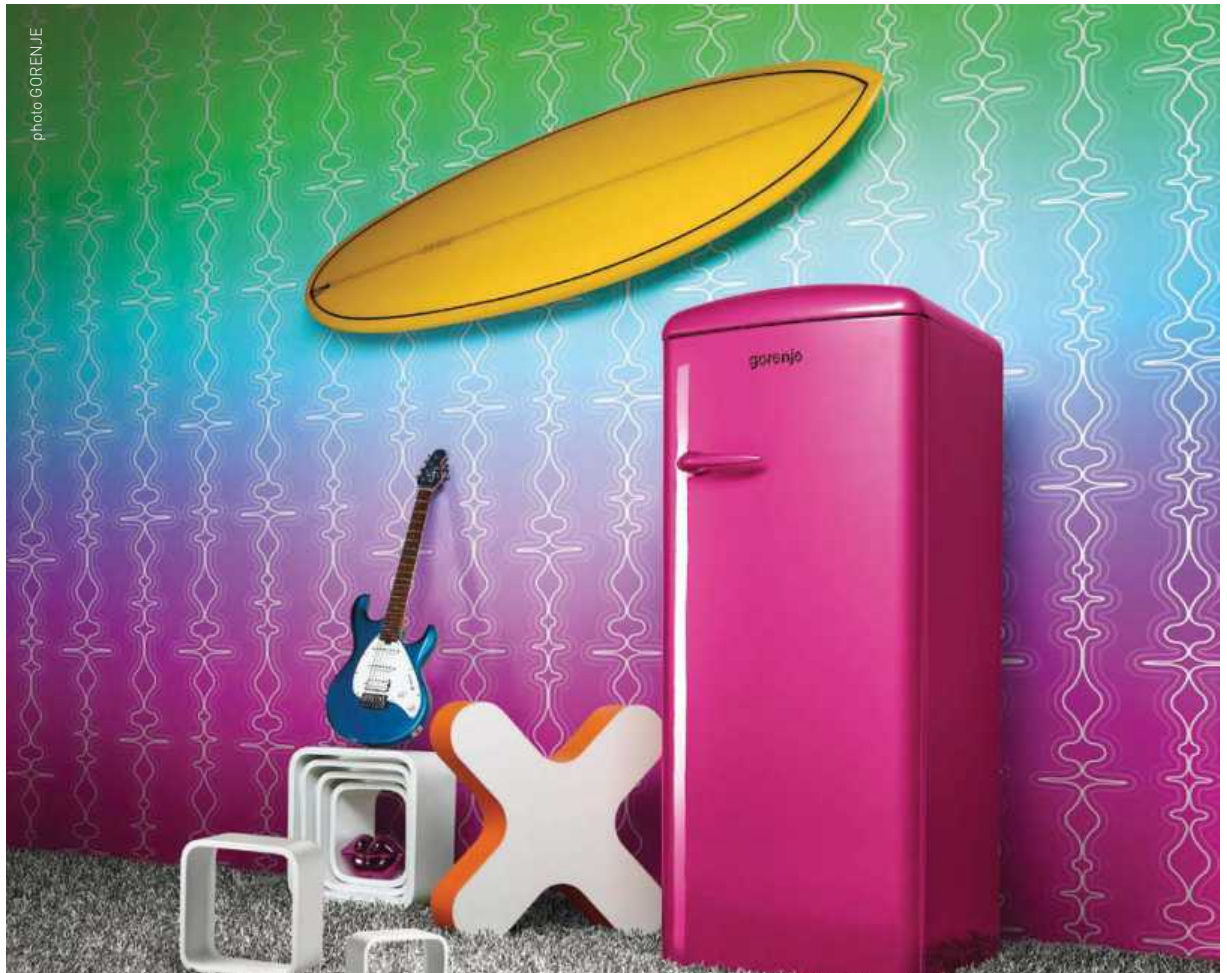
The retro style is one that imitates the aesthetics, styles, fashions and even attitudes of the recent past. The word is derived from Latin, where the prefix retro meant “in past times”.

OPPOSITE PAGE
The Smeg FAB28 refrigerator comes in many colours to match any decor.

RIGHT
Gorenje is another good place to go if you want funky-coloured fridges.

TIP

The key to a retro fridge lies in its hinges. Remember to leave a gap of 175mm on the hinged side so you can open the door!



BELOW
Retro-chic dishware from the Kartell Jellies collection are produced with safer plastics born of the latest technology.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Brightly coloured cantilever dining chairs bring the 20s back in a fun, new way.

Tupperware was soon born, and created a tsunami that was embraced by American homes as quickly as it had appeared in the market.

2. PLASTIC DINNERWARE

The world's fascination with plastic began when Earl Silas Tupper produced containers made from injection-molded polyethylene. Tupperware was soon born, and created a tsunami that was embraced by American homes as quickly as it had appeared in the market. Melamine dishes of every colour combination followed the heels of Tupperware, and the whole world wanted more and more of the plastic dishes! Nowadays, you can still find retro-chic dishware made from acrylic glass that do not contain harmful bisphenol-A, which can be found in older modes of plastics.

3. INTERESTING DINING CHAIRS

Let your imagination run free when choosing your dining chairs. Give cantilever chairs a go. These first emerged in the 1920s as an academic experiment at the German Bauhaus in incorporating academic theory and industrial design. Brightly-coloured cantilever chairs are the way to go if you're into the retro style. The louder the colours, the better the chair!



BELOW
This state-of-the-art espresso maker from DeLonghi looks like something from the Victorian Era.

CENTRE
This Morphy Richards toaster looks like an old radio.

RIGHT
The 70s were a time dominated by floral wallpapers. However, make the trend your own by selecting a floral pattern that truly speaks to you.

BOTTOM
Morphy Richards bring us an excellent throwback to the kettles of yesteryear.



photo HARVEY NORMAN



photo HARVEY NORMAN



photo HARVEY NORMAN



photo VAN GOGH COLLECTION BY GOODRICH

4. STEAMPUNK KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Steampunk is regarded as an aesthetic focused upon retro-futuristic notions. Everyday objects of the modern era are given a Victorian-era look to them, to make them anachronistic, but still relevant to the present. These days, you can find many kitchen appliances that fit the bill, from espresso machines to toasters.

5. FLORAL WALLPAPER

The 70s were the years of floral wallpaper, where they were a mainstay of homes everywhere. However, that does not mean that you have to stick with motifs specifically from that time. Any kind of wallpaper with a central motif of flowers works just as well. ▴

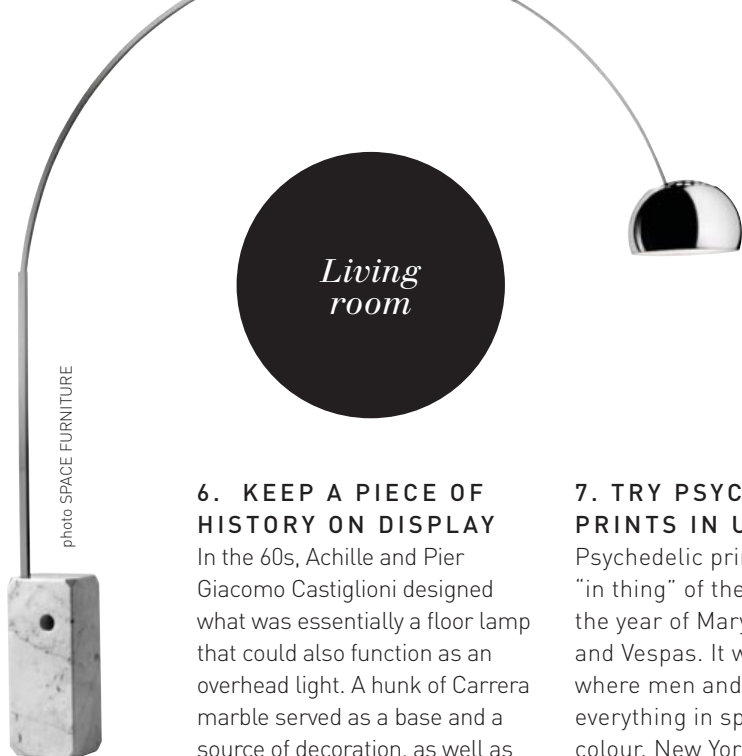


photo SPACE FURNITURE

6. KEEP A PIECE OF HISTORY ON DISPLAY

In the 60s, Achille and Pier Giacomo Castiglioni designed what was essentially a floor lamp that could also function as an overhead light. A hunk of Carrera marble served as a base and a source of decoration, as well as physical balance, and a wide, adjustable arc formed the body of the lamp. Achille Castiglioni believed that a designer must be a problem solver, thus giving way to the end product: an overhead light without any cluttered wires, inspired by a streetlamp.

7. TRY PSYCHEDELIC PRINTS IN UPHOLSTERY

Psychedelic prints were the "in thing" of the 1960s. It was the year of Mary Quant, Twiggy and Vespas. It was also a time where men and women enjoyed everything in splashes of colour. New York and London became the new capitals of style, and the world saw a great celebration of "flower power" and "acid-edged colours."

ABOVE
The Flos Arco
Lamp is an icon
for all ages.

BELOW
Psychedelic prints
were analogous
to the 60s.



photo KARTELL



photo KARTELL

LEFT
Sleek racks in bright colours are key for the retro look.

8. SLEEK RACKS

A retro lover can take great joy in anything with translucence and colour. These can hold anything, from your collection of fine china to vintage action figures that you might like to display, while proving true to the retro aesthetic.

9. WOODEN FURNITURE

In vogue in the 1970s, timber furniture saw the use of teak as the main wood, but many others like oak, walnut, wicker, and rattan were also utilised. Wooden furniture not only brings warmth to your room, it also provides an air of cosiness. ➤



photo IKEA

RIGHT
This chest of drawers take on a retro look. It comes with adjustable feet to accommodate any flooring irregularities, so as to appear level at all times.

BELOW
Throwback to the 70s with some of these walnut pieces.



photo IKEA



TIP

This set of coffee tables can be used separately or together. They are leaf-shaped to make things a little more interesting.

*Bedroom
and study*

10. COMFORT WITH A POP OF COLOUR

If you use your bedroom for more than just sleeping, it is advisable to add a few seats for that little bit of extra comfort. For that distinctive retro space-age vibe of the 60s, incorporate seats in vibrant, neon colours.

LEFT
Place a few seats in your bedroom that add bright pops of colour for that space-age feel.

RIGHT
Voluptuous, inviting with a secure, comforting shell, this chair was inspired by a pumpkin!

BELOW
The Egg chair, designed by Arne Jacobsen, is one of the icons of furniture design from the 50s.



photo LIGNE ROSET



photo LIGNE ROSET



photo SPACE FURNITURE



photo IKEA

RIGHT
Metal lights were all the rage in the 50s.

ABOVE
They also came in various colours, like mint green.



photo FORADA

11. SIT IN AN EGG

Another icon of the 50s, designer Arne Jacobsen's Egg chair provides just enough privacy with the wings of its back. The perfectly rounded shape of the chair gives the sitter a feeling of security, thereby inspiring its moniker, The Egg.

12. METAL LIGHTS

The 50s were a time when metal lights took the spotlight, whether they were table lamps or pendant lights. They either came in all sorts of colours, or were left in their original sheen.●

A TIMELESS DESIGN: A TO Z

Creating a timeless kids' room that grows as they do is not hard. You can easily achieve this with Harvey Norman's practical and classic children's bed designs which are perfect!



Looking for inspiration to create a timeless kids' room? Here are a few simple tips on how to achieve the look:

Kick-start your project by choosing sophisticated and elegant colour schemes from a palette of neutral colours for your furniture and walls. Adhere to a maximum of two to three colours per room and do not overwhelm the room with overly bright colours.

The next step is to dress up your children's room with plain, simple and classic pieces

of furniture. Invest in a good quality bed that can be converted into a bigger piece or can be incorporated into other areas of the house when your child grown out of it.

After fixing the timeless bedroom furniture, you can still transform the room ambient to what your child desired by incorporating their favourite cartoon characters in bed sheets, toys, wallpapers or posters. This is also the easiest way to refresh the look, feel and style of a room

from time to time without costing a bomb.

To reinforce the concept of timeless design, consider furnishing the room with bedroom sets that come with extra compartments or hidden storage space. We could all use a little extra space and storage beds have been developed to efficiently hide away all your child's clothing, toys, books or other accessories. You can easily find these timeless, space-saving and clutter-free designs in Harvey Norman.



These are our favourites:



DEAL
OF THE
MONTH

ALASKA CABIN SUPER SINGLE BED + SINGLE JR FOAM MATTRESS

USUAL PRICE: RM4,165 AFTER DISCOUNT: RM2,909

USUAL PRICE: RM3,809 AFTER DISCOUNT: RM2,669 (without JR Foam mattress)

Neat, minimalist and compact, the sturdy Alaska Cabin Bed is made of quality wood. White is the best colour to incorporate into smaller rooms, and works perfectly with the design of this bed, which does not take up much space. With a chest of drawers and a roll-out desk perfectly fitted underneath the bed, it's the perfect space-saving solution.



TALL BOY

USUAL PRICE: RM2,649

AFTER DISCOUNT: RM1,849

The Tall Boy is all about comfort and luxury. It gives your child the red carpet treatment, with an optional staircase for climbing in and out of bed. Upholstered in high quality fabric with piping, the bed comes with soft rounded edges and a tall side rail to prevent injuries from falling out of bed. Drawers are also available as extra storage or a sleeping place for your child's teddy friends.



ATLAS SUPER SINGLE BED

USUAL PRICE: RM1,689 AFTER DISCOUNT: RM1,179

Not fussy? Choose this classy single-bed design. The Atlas super single bed comes with a stylish headboard for your child to hold onto for a good seating position when reading. The design affords plenty of room for a bedside table and lamp. Made from durable wood, this stylish bed will easily fit into bedroom of any design.



MURPHY SUPER SINGLE BUNK BED

USUAL PRICE: RM2,969 AFTER DISCOUNT: RM2,079

If you believe the bedroom is a place for sleep and not study, convert the area below to hold another single bed. Available in white, the bed is made of sturdy solid wood.

Harvey Norman

HARVEY NORMAN IPC SHOPPING CENTRE +603-7718-5200 | HARVEY NORMAN MID VALLEY +603-2282-2860 | HARVEY NORMAN SUNWAY PYRAMID +603-5622-1300
HARVEY NORMAN PAVILION +603-2142-3735 | HARVEY NORMAN AEON BUKIT TINGGI +603-3326-2631 | HARVEY NORMAN 1 MONT KIARA +603-6203-6380
HARVEY NORMAN SETIA CITY MALL +603-3345-6085 | HARVEY NORMAN PARADIGM MALL +603-7887-3589 | HARVEY NORMAN QUEENSBAY (PENANG) +604-630-8210
HARVEY NORMAN CITTA MALL +603-7846-1025 | HARVEY NORMAN AMPANG POINT SHOPPING CENTRE +603-4260-1020 | HARVEY NORMAN NU SENTRAL +603-2260-7866
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You can now shop online @ www.harveynorman.com.my

COAT STANDS

The coat rack can be used as a stylish and functional piece, serving as a decorative addition while catering to any homeowner's needs.



EXTENSION CHAIR

Sjoerd Vroonland's creation for Mooi, the Extension chair was born of a vision for extending a chair's uses. The designer drew on the customs and manners of chair usage, eventually transforming the chair into a coat hanger.

Available from Space Furniture.



PASSE-PASSE

Ladders-turned-coat-stands are not a thing of the past. The stylish Passe-Passe is available in solid beech, varnished black (both finished with a beautiful satin sheen) or anthracite-stained beech. A Philippe Nigro design, the coat stand also comes with felt pads on its feet to protect your floors from scratches.

Available from Ligne Roset.



METRO HALL STAND

Three sticks form the Metro Hall stand, which shares the basic structure of a tepee. Coats and accessories go on the stand and hooks, but don't worry – it won't topple over.

Available from BoConcept.



WING

Spread these wall-mounted wings to hang up your clothes, bags and various other accessories. This simple design from Lievore Altherr Molinas for Arper presents you with not one or two, but three hooks in one! Each wooden piece can be adjusted to the left or right to make hanging room.

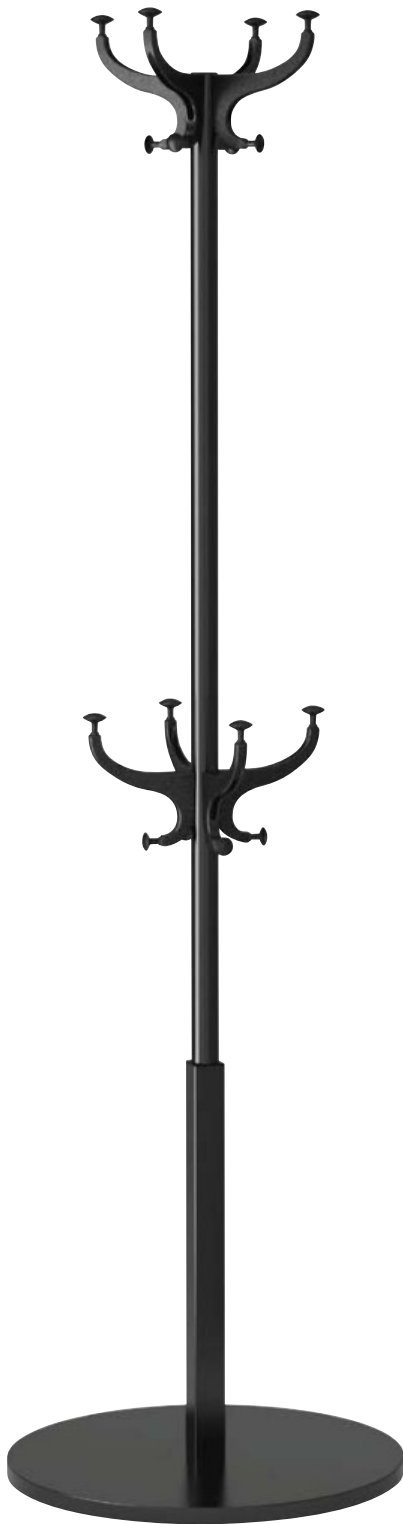
Available from Space Furniture.



CAPITON HOOKS

Of Emilie Colin Garros design, these padded hooks come in pastel hues of three different sizes, perfect for the contemporary home.

Available from Ligne Roset. ➤



△

HEMNES HAT AND COAT STAND

The Hemnes coat stand comes with eight hooks and a wide base for keeping wet shoes from dirtying your floors.

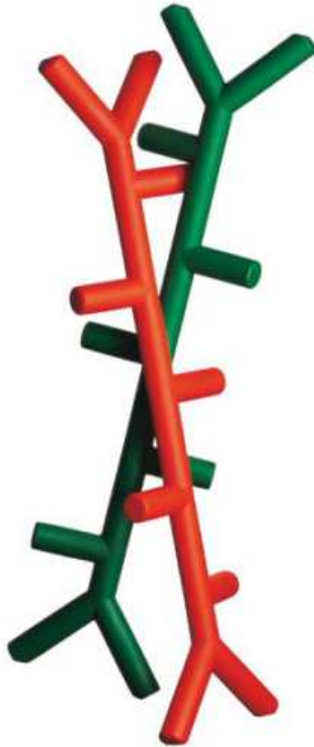
Available from Ikea.



7. RAMO COAT STAND

From Swiss designer Emanuelle Jaques/Ecal for Serralunga, the Ramo coat stand is made of sturdy polyethylene, perfect for both indoor and outdoor use. To be leaned against walls and other surfaces, it can be used to hold towels at the poolside, or as a stepladder for pruning and gardening.

Available from Space Furniture.



△

PORTIS HAT AND COAT STAND

This coat stand would be right at home in a Victorian manor. Portis not only adds dramatic flair to your home entrance, it is also useful for holding up to ten hats, coats, and bags.

Available from Ikea.



JELLIES COAT HANGER

From Patricia Urquiola's Jellies collection for Kartell, these wall-mounted hangers are made of thermoplastic technopolymer, which gives them a touch of transparency. The motifs and patterns in the Jellies coat hangers represent the cuts of a moulded jelly. Available from Space Furniture.



SONG FREESTANDING COAT HANGER

Who would think notes are useful off musical sheets? These ones prevent your clothes from falling off, forming the hooks of a unique coat rack aptly named the Song freestanding coat hanger. The playful and dynamic composition of the Lievore Altherr Molinas piece for Arper, with its twists and turns, prevents overlapping of hung garments.

Available from Space Furniture.



GIVE YOUR COAT STANDS AND WALL HANGERS MORE PURPOSE

1. If you'd rather not use coat stands for hats, try using them for children's coats and outerwear. This will help you to save space.
2. If you're prone to being absent-minded, placing your keys on a wall hanger will cut down on time spent searching when they're lost.
3. Use the hooks of a coat stand to prepare your accessories in advance. This holds true for scarves, necklaces, bracelets, watches, and ties among other things. ●

MADE IN MALAYSIA

These local designers make us proud to be Malaysian. Their distinguished designs display the thought processes of making a trendy statement, creating awareness of both culture and environmentally-friendly products and design techniques, all of which are practiced right in this country we call home.



**SAMSAH
JENDOL**

**CREATIVE IN ART AND DESIGN,
BOOK SAVIOUR SAMSAH JENDOL
USES HER SKILLS TO RESTORE
BOOKS FROM BIBLES TO QURANS.**

Six years ago, when Samsiah called it quits as creative designer of Aquaria KLCC, and as graphic designer of an international advertising agency, she made a firm decision to work independently.

A Negeri Sembilan native, Samsiah wanted to focus on enjoying the creative process of producing and personalising various arts and crafts, something she had been unable to do throughout her 12 years in the corporate world.

"I was always attracted to the concept of creating something out of nothing," She says. To this end, she established her own brand, LittleSyam.

With her new establishment, Samsiah is able to hold creative workshops such as silk-screen printing and various stitching methods for book binding. These are carried out in her Kuala

Lumpur studio, which has areas dedicated to sewing, silk-screen printing, a craft supplies corner, dark room and a small pantry.

"I am free to create using my own judgements," Samsiah says. The designer, who has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Graphic Design from New Zealand, has shared her skills with no less than 900 students since the creation of LittleSyam.

Much has changed in the creative industry since she first started. "There are more and more talents who are interested in being independent these days. There is a potential market in Malaysia since designers are now able to engage with the target consumers through a global platform such as social media," Samsiah adds.

Besides her creations, the designer has quite a collection of notebooks, some of which are

gifts from friends. Others include books from her childhood or her travels.

LittleSyam offers cards, customised guest books, photo albums and notebooks with various covers, binding options and papers to choose from. Apart from local art events, her products are available for purchase online or in numerous hotels in Penang and Langkawi.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.LITTLESYAM.COM

LEFT TO RIGHT
Notebooks with
various bookbinding
techniques are used
to bind her notebooks
with silk-screen
printed covers; hand-
bound notebooks;
leather notebooks.





GWYNETH LIM

FOUNDER AND ART DIRECTOR OF AHNYA-CHI, GWYNETH LIM TURNS TO HER GRASSROOTS FOR HER LATEST BUSINESS VENTURE WHICH STARTS FROM HOME.

Art and Design was the only class she ever paid a 100% attention in. Born in Kuala Lumpur, Gwyneth graduated in Australia with a Masters in Communication Design and a Post Graduate degree in Business.

Gwyneth once owned a design practice, Strat-a-G Designs. In a merger with advertising agency Lucideas (Lucid-Ideas), she met co-founder Melissa Chan. Equally attuned to art, Melissa is curator of her family's Baba Nyonya Heritage Museum in Malacca. "Her father's roots lie in Malacca while my mother's family hails from Penang," Gwyneth says.

The idea of kick-starting Ahnya-Chi (Ah Nya refers to Nyonya and Chi means sister) was sparked off by sessions of friendly gossip and catching up between her grandmother and her friends.

"We remember our mothers and grandmothers who hold these gossip sessions, peeling shallots for their curry paste or cutting leftover fabrics for their next patchwork," says Gwyneth, whose designs include the colourful and intricate embroidery work so often seen in authentic Baba and Nyonya styles.

Ahnya-Chi is all about mixing and matching the old and new. The brand offers soft furnishings, from cushion covers to lamp shades in three different collections: the Baba series, Kebaya, and Nyonya.

The collections are inspired by different things ranging from Peranakan women to modern homeowners.

Australia has certainly played a role in Gwyneth's designs. The Baba series incorporates a rhombus-like shape in patchworks. "It allows me to play with a variety of textures and patterns that I feel, creates a timeless design as compared to Chevron pattern," She says.

Gwyneth admires the eclectic way of life the culture embodies. "There is a great contrast between the formality in traditional rituals and the laidback communal gatherings like tok panjang (a feast held during special occasions)," Gwyneth adds.

The designer is in the midst of making Ahnya-Chi's creations available regionally. ➤

📍
FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT WWW.AHNYACHI.COM



CLOCKWISE TOP TO BOTTOM
Kebaya-Chi collection; Wrapped in Kebaya fabric, Emily is made in collaboration with lighting designer, Stephanie Ng; there are three pillow collections available including Baby-Chi from The Straits Collection.





CLOCKWISE TOP TO BOTTOM
The Mini Case holds business cards and can be used as a cigarette box clutch or a coin purse; toteByAttached is made of duck canvas; FRAL Design Studio designed both the interior and bespoke furniture of LA/PA.

FRAL DESIGN STUDIO

DESIGN TRENDS COME AND GO, BUT THESE ARE HERE TO STAY!



When geometrics, herringbones and the beauty of nature in wood are thrown into a single space, they give way to either a simple, clean, and minimalist design, or a rustic, or industrious space.

At FRAL Design Studio, interior designers Faiz Rosliand and Ayu Lamien add strong personalities to various spaces that range from cafes, recording studios, and creative agencies.

The UiTM graduates boast Honours Degrees in architecture, and were involved in large-scale architectural projects during their practice in various local and international architectural firms. Upon gaining insight into various aspects of design, the duo discovered their interests lay in interior and space design.

Due to their shared interest in smaller scale projects, the duo came up with the idea of a design studio early in their student years. Aptly named after its founders and taking on their acronyms, the Selangor-based studio was established in 2011. To date, it has taken on numerous projects including cafes like LA/PA, which is best known for its clean and minimalistic space. The cafe is furnished with stylish and simple, but smart table designs, part of the bespoke furniture the duo offer.

Geometrics are evident in Subang Jaya's Kapten café, and stylish Herringbone is visible in the built-in cabinets of an upgrading interior project involving Thirdwave Café at Nexus Bangsar South.

Faiz and Ayu also customise beautiful hand-stitched leather products. These products, including bags, have been sold under the Attached Leather Co brand since 2013. According to Faiz, the art of stitching together pieces of leather require a healthy build up of patience. "Sometimes it feels like therapy, stitching for hours with a cup of coffee on the side." He says.

Such dedication has seen them through for the past four years. The duo is still going strong, both in leather, as well as interior designs that are unmistakably distinctive to their style.



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/FRALSPACE





PEISY TING

THE CREATIVE FORCE BEHIND PALM REPUBLIK, PEISY TING ADDRESSES THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF PAPER USAGE ON PLANET EARTH.

With a decade of experience in numerous international advertising agencies based in Kuala Lumpur, Peisy means business. The environment is of utmost importance to the art director, who established Palm Republik in 2013.

The initial concept behind Palm Republik was to encourage the use of only palm paper in producing notebooks and paper products. There are only two manufacturers of palm paper in the world – one in Malaysia and the other in Thailand. When both stopped production, Peisy was forced to use other types of paper.

"Palm paper was first produced 25 years ago in Malaysia, and in limited amounts," Peisy reveals. This fact largely remains unknown by consumers and manufacturers, who are unwilling to take the risk of working with palm. Not one to be discouraged, Peisy formed a 35-day Kickstarter project



to raise awareness and funds. She named this project Palm Republik: From Palm Waste to Paper, setting an \$8,500 USD initial goal. The project soon garnered 152 backers from 20 different countries, which led to a total contribution of \$10,000 USD, which at the time was equivalent to about RM35,000.

Peisy's observations during the project showed that,

"Western countries are literally begging for paper with a tree-free solution. Yet it seemed that this golden opportunity could be wasted which is very unfortunate."

Despite its beautiful texture and colour, paper made entirely of natural palm waste can only be used to as covers for notebooks or post cards, as it is not thin enough to be used as ordinary writing paper.

Apart from palm paper, the notebooks under Peisy's recent Tiga project incorporate fine quality paper imported from Italy. The front covers of the notebooks are designed by her and other artists including Kerby Rosanes and Vince Low. "The main goal of the project is to incorporate art into a range of high quality paper products," Peisy says. ●

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.PALMREPUBLIK.COM



TOP TO BOTTOM
Palm Republik soft
cover notebooks; Tiga
sketchbook collection
designed by Peisy
Ting, Kerby Rosanes
and Vince Low.

HOME-GROWN FURNITURE

This month, we celebrate Malaysian furniture designers in accordance with Malaysia Day.

The Malaysian timber and furniture market is worth RM33 billion, where RM20 billion comes from exports. This means Malaysian furniture made from our own timber is a highly lucrative venture, and that they are also highly desirable, exported to over 183 countries worldwide. Suffice to say, our furniture designers are our pride and joy. This month, we showcase four furniture designers, all accomplished in their own way.



TOP LEFT
Back to Basics – a cuboid that can be used many ways.

ABOVE
Alice Lee, award-winning designer.

BELOW
The construction Back to Basics looks simple, but was a huge endeavor for Alice.

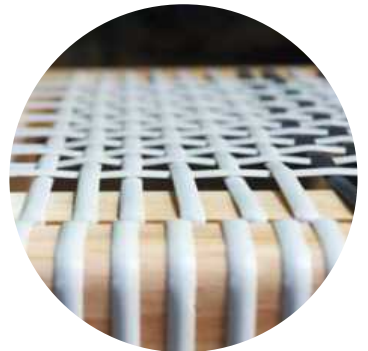
ALICE LEE

Alice Lee recently won the second prize at the Malaysian International Furniture Fair (MIFF) Furniture Design Competition 2015 with Back to Basics – a highly versatile cuboid that can be used as a coffee table, rack or even as a seat. She graduated from the One Academy and Birmingham City University and is currently working as an interior designer in Kuala Lumpur.

"I am interested in things with potential that can be developed and evolved into something new," Alice says. "I like to explore and am open to new ideas and challenges." This was why she had chosen to participate in the

Furniture Design Competition by MIFF. The project was of a small scale, and the construction of the object looked simple, but it took a lot of work and effort. "I do not like to say that something will not work until I give 200%," she stresses. "My passions and feelings were all translated into Back to Basics, which is why I'm very proud of it."

Her favourite materials to work with are those that are eco-friendly and have rich textures. "Every material speaks on its own," she says. "That is why I like to explore every possibility when creating something. I also like to add simple, quirky touches to my work."



 ALICE IS CURRENTLY WORKING IN AN INTERIOR DESIGN FIRM. HER CONTACT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND VIA THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL AT WWW.MTC.COM.MY/.

NESTNORDIC.COM

They may have Nordic roots, but NestNordic.com has been producing furniture in Malaysia for 45 years. They emphasise simplicity, functionality and intelligent ideas, all of which are characteristic of Scandinavian aesthetics. It is this ethos that brought them to win several Malaysian Good Design Awards.

"The biggest challenge we face is in turning our inspirations into real products," The design team at NestNordic.com shares.

"Simplicity has to come hand in hand with functionality."

The team loves to work with solid wood. "It is primal, widely available and it is a renewable resource," they explain. "We are most satisfied when our products are well-received by our customers." The furniture designs of NestNordic.com are timeless and elegant, which are of course, precisely qualities that their clients look for. ➤



NESTNORDIC.COM IS CURRENTLY EXPANDING THEIR RANGE OF SCANDINAVIAN FURNITURE. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT WWW.NESTNORDIC.COM.

"We are most satisfied when our products are well-received by our customers."

BELOW
NestNordic.com's products are inspired by Scandinavian trends but are locally designed and produced in Malaysia.

ABOVE
With emphasis on simplicity and functionality, NestNordic.com's furniture has won several Malaysian Good Design Awards.





FRANCIS LYE

Francis Lye is an industrial designer whose work ranges from consumer electronics to architectural projects. He was recently included in the International Furniture Fair Singapore's prestigious Asia's 20 Rising Furniture Designers list. He is deeply interested in philosophy, which he sees as a good way to improve his conceptual and critical thinking.

"I always start with pen and paper," Francis explains. "I brainstorm to imagine better ways man can live and then seek ways to realise them. I tend to spend more time prototyping something than conceptualising it so I can understand a material or process much easier. So, I will create multiple versions for one project, refining them until they receive the best feedback."

"One of the most challenging works I have done so far was UI/UX design for a software company," he said. "You need to think like architects and work within a defined space—a plot of land, perhaps, or a pre-existing structure. UX work is much more complicated than product design."

Solid wood and steel are his favourite materials to work with, solely because this combination has endless possibilities for form exploration. "Originality and attention to detail is my design philosophy," he elaborates. "Designing something is a very long process, and you have to be prepared to go all in and dedicate enough time and energy to make it work. I work for the moment when the product is released to the client, seeing them use it and the smiles on their faces when they do so."

TOP LEFT
Francis was dubbed one of Asia's 20 Rising Furniture Designers at the International Furniture Fair Singapore.

BOTTOM LEFT
The A77 Chair was created by imagining how Man's life can be improved.

BOTTOM RIGHT
Francis' favourite combination is wood and steel - the result is the Stark chair.



FRANCIS IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A NEW COLLECTION FOR MFIVIO, A FURNITURE LIFESTYLE BRAND BASED IN KUALA LUMPUR THAT HANDCRAFTS QUALITY SOLID TIMBER IN ALL SHAPES AND FORMS. HIS CONTACT DETAILS CAN BE FOUND VIA THE MALAYSIAN TIMBER COUNCIL AT WWW.MTC.COM.MY/.



TOMATO KIDZ

Tomato KidZ creates furniture for children. Their designs are quirky and colourful, and are made to resemble castles and playhouses. They look to toys, story books and children's movies and games for inspiration, mostly to cater for their export clients in the UK and US. Most of the designers in their team joined soon after graduating from university, and consider themselves very lucky to be exposed the furniture export market at such an early stage in their careers.

When designing pieces of furniture, they work by first understanding the constraints of the project, utilising ways that would best realise their initial ideas and concepts. "The key to a successful design is the trust between the engineers and our team," the Tomato KidZ design team echoes. "We

need to convince them that our designs are feasible, and we must understand the engineering aspects of the design so we know what can or cannot be done."

The team loves to work with Medium-density Fibreboards (MDFs), a type of engineered wood created by breaking wood residue into wood fibres which are then combined with wax and resin binders to be formed into panels by applying high pressure and temperature. The Tomato KidZ team enjoys working with MDF because it can be easily shaped, which is crucial in the design of their award-winning children's furniture.

The team is happiest when their designs are well-received. It is from there where they derive their satisfaction because they know that they are meeting their clients' dreams and visions. ●



THE TOMATO KIDZ TEAM IS CURRENTLY WORKING ON A NEW SERIES OF SPACE-EFFICIENT PRODUCTS AND SPACESHIP-THEMED BEDS. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT WWW.TOMATOKIDZ.COM.

"The key to a successful design is the trust between the engineers and our team."

BOTTOM LEFT
The Rubix Youth bed is suitable for children and teenagers.

ABOVE
The Amberly Doll House comes with an overhead playhouse-loft.

BOTTOM
TomatoKidZ also designs studying areas for children.



SHOWHOUSE SHOWCASE

WISTERIA@RIMBAYU, IJM

Built for those seeking quiet, tranquil lives at home, IJM's Wisteria showhouse in Bandar Rimbayu reflects the tasteful, yet modern touch of its designers. Jasmine and Ling of Artwork Interiors gives us the grand tour.

Tell us about yourself and your work in interior design.

We've been with Artwork Interiors for over eight years, and have done showhouses in Seremban, Petaling Jaya, and Ulu Klang, as well as two of Bandar Rimbayu's showhouses, with one more coming up for Wisteria's second lot type. We also do interior design work for offices, and we also get some residential clients. I personally enjoy working with showhouses because of the freedom we get putting them together. We're allowed to work practicality into the design, and we've learnt from all our past experiences.▶







ABOVE
Modern French
decor and
furnishings elevate
the home in terms
of sophistication,
while still
maintaining
a welcoming
warmth.

**Tell us about the design concept
of this showhouse gallery.**

The name Wisteria itself is very English and floral, but we didn't want to walk too far down that lane. We picked at the concept as inspiration, and modernised it, so we've ended up with a modern French style. We've used a lot of clean lines, and some velvet, though mostly we wanted to give the house an interesting, contemporary vibe. We were also given basic plans based on the target market of the property and their ages, so we worked within those guidelines.





Tell us about the bedrooms.

We wanted to give the bedrooms a modern touch, and combined the simple, along with the ornate. The walls and sheets are simple, so we can really draw attention to the decorations we've used. We've brightened up the compact dressing area of the master bedroom with gilded mirror frames. In the kids' room, we wanted to incorporate a fun touch, as I believe it's important to give kids extra elements to brighten the space up.

When we started designing, we wanted to showcase how different families could utilise the space. It's important to make the design practical, instead of it being merely for show, so we start off our designing by putting the potential owner at the forefront. ➤





LEFT &
BOTTOM
Little details draw
the eye against
otherwise simple
backdrops.

BELOW
Calming colours
lull children to
sleep, while a
brightly-coloured
wall fixture
provides a cheerful
touch.

How did you source the furnishings for the house?

We mixed and matched the furnishings. Some of them we had fabricated, and others are pieces that we found, and made modifications to.

What's your favourite part about this design?

My favourite part of this home is the colours used. They're very soothing, which is something I feel is an integral part of a home feeling like home.



Did you get any feedback from viewers that you're particularly happy with?

I hear the design was well-received. Some noted that the designs were contrasting in the second floor hallway, but it was the intention here. We wanted to make the most of the space we had and to use it all up, so the design accommodates two activities at the same time. ●

RIGHT
The hallway is designed in a way that allows for multiple activities to happen within the same space.



INSPIRED BY NATURE

This contemporary, eco-friendly home
is designed to be family-friendly.

WHO

A couple and their
two young daughters

HOME

Three-storey,
seven-bedroom
semi-detached house

SIZE

5,000sqf



As the homeowners often entertain guests, they chose an open concept for the kitchen for a more social space. [▶](#)





The interiors are bright and airy with a casual homey vibe, which is further enhanced by a mix of furniture in different styles.

ABOVE
The couple's eclectic taste in decor is evident in the dining room, which has been furnished in a mix of styles.

ABOVE
Pops of colour from the furniture stand out against the living room's neutral colour scheme.

ABOVE, LEFT
The powder room on the ground floor boasts an open concept, and a specially designed "washbasin".

TOP, LEFT
The couple had a pair of mangrove roots, which were purchased from Zia Concept, made into door handles for the main entrance.



Despite its imposing facade, you instantly feel at ease as you step into the home of Christopher and Winnie Box. The spacious three-storey house has a neutral colour palette accented with lots of warm wood tones, and a mix of furniture in various decor styles. The pieces that form the eclectic collection have been amassed over the years from all over the world, says Winnie, and they include custom-made pieces and auction buys.

Moving from their previous home – a conservation shophouse that “was not catered to kids” – the couple specifically wanted their new place to be family-friendly. They also liked the idea of bringing the outdoors in. Designer Thomas Tham of Substance Living worked very closely with their architect to provide lots of open space, a well-ventilated layout suitable for entertaining large groups, and even a pool, which their five- and eight-year-old daughters enjoy.

The house was built from scratch, costing RM4.8 million, with an additional RM360,000 (excluding furniture) for the interiors. Here’s how the bright and airy interiors were designed:

Intimate spaces were opened up

A unique feature of the house is its bathrooms, which are given a natural, open feel with tall openings instead of windows. Lush foliage planted outside act as screens. “Initially, our friends were afraid that the neighbours could see them while they were using the bathroom!” laughs Winnie.

The top-floor master bathroom has a semi-outdoor shower area, and the ground-floor powder room does away with a conventional washbasin. Water from the faucet, installed on a cantilevered piece of wood, flows directly onto the floor of pebbles that conceal the water drainage. ➤



LEFT
Up on the top floor sits a family-cum-entertaining area, which extends to an expansive balcony with a view of the neighbourhood.

TOP LEFT
Winnie and her husband had in mind a family-friendly home that was casual and comfortable.

TOP RIGHT
The master bedroom, like the rest of the bedrooms, has an adjoining balcony to enhance the feeling of openness.

MIDDLE, LEFT
A planter was created at the bottom of the air well on the second floor to provide more soothing green views.

MIDDLE, RIGHT
The staircase and corridor leading to the girls' bedrooms are bathed in natural light streaming in through overhead glass panels.

BOTTOM
Fitted out entirely with Hansgrohe fixtures and sanitaryware, the daughters' shared bathroom won an award in a design competition organised by the brand!

Air wells created for better ventilation and more light

Having two strategically positioned air wells means that the entire house is constantly breezy. The first one is situated next to the dining area on the ground floor, and cuts through the entire height of the house. Winnie plans to add a water feature in this courtyard-like space. The other air well, situated on the second floor next to the daughters' shared bathroom, is also used for plants. As the home is well-ventilated, the family rarely uses air conditioning, she shares.

Transitional spaces brightened with natural light

Stairwells and corridors are usually dark areas. In order to make the transitional spaces of the home more pleasant to walk through, a glass ceiling and full-height glass windows were installed above the staircase and along the corridor leading to the girls' bedrooms. This allows copious amounts of daylight into the otherwise dim areas, minimising the need for lights.

Many al fresco areas were included

Roomy balconies and patios on every floor of the house allow the family to step out for a breath of fresh air. On the ground floor, adjacent to the open kitchen and living room, is an al fresco dining area by the pool.

This is Winnie's favourite spot, as she and her husband chill out here on weekends while keeping an eye on their daughters as they swim. On the third floor, which extends to a generously sized balcony, is where the couple often entertains big groups.

Eco-friendly systems were integrated

To make their home as eco-friendly as possible, Christopher and Winnie covered the entire roof with solar panels, which set them back RM120,000.

Under the recommendation of a friend who is a water conservation consultant, they also had a "bio-retention system" installed. It makes use of excess rain water from the garden to flush the toilets and irrigate the plants. Therefore, apart from doing their part for the environment, long-term savings on their utility bills are also guaranteed! ●



WARM WELCOME

Thanks to its warm colour scheme, this industrial-style home remains cosy and welcoming.

=====

W H O
A couple and
their toddler

=====

H O M E
Five-room
flat

=====

S I Z E
1,184sqf

R I G H T
The cerulean armchair lends a pop of colour to the wood-toned living room, while the graphic cushions give the classic chesterfield sofa a modern touch. ►









With an upsurge of industrial-inspired cafes around town, it is no surprise that frequent cafe-hoppers Jason Pang and Cherlene Tan wanted an industrial theme for their first home. It was their only request to designer Kelvin Teo of Space Sense, who interpreted the style in a warmer treatment.

Dark wood-looklike tiles cover the floors, while terracotta brick veneer and barn door-like wainscoting clad one living room wall. Breaking away from the industrial look is the brown chesterfield sofa from Locus Habitat, which anchors the area. This classic piece is the couple's only must-have item.

Black metal design features run throughout the rest of this five-room residence. You see it first beyond the entrance, where a massive metal shoe cabinet sits against a wall. "It's like two centipedes live here," quips Jason as he opens the shipping

ABOVE, LEFT
Kevin created a design out of the exposed electrical piping in the kitchen.

ABOVE
The barn door-inspired wainscoting doubles as a slender picture ledge.

OPPOSITE
The shoe cabinet is personalised with white stenciled labels reminiscent of those found on shipping containers.



RIGHT
The wall between the kitchen and the dining area was torn down to create a roomier, open-plan space which could then fit a narrow kitchen island.

[OPPOSITE] TOP
The capacious closet boasts open racks and a single aluminium sliding door, while the centre island – which displays a neat collection of snapbacks – anchors the room.

BOTTOM
To create a restful sanctuary, Kelvin toned down the decorative elements in the bedroom and utilised a quiet, monochrome palette instead.

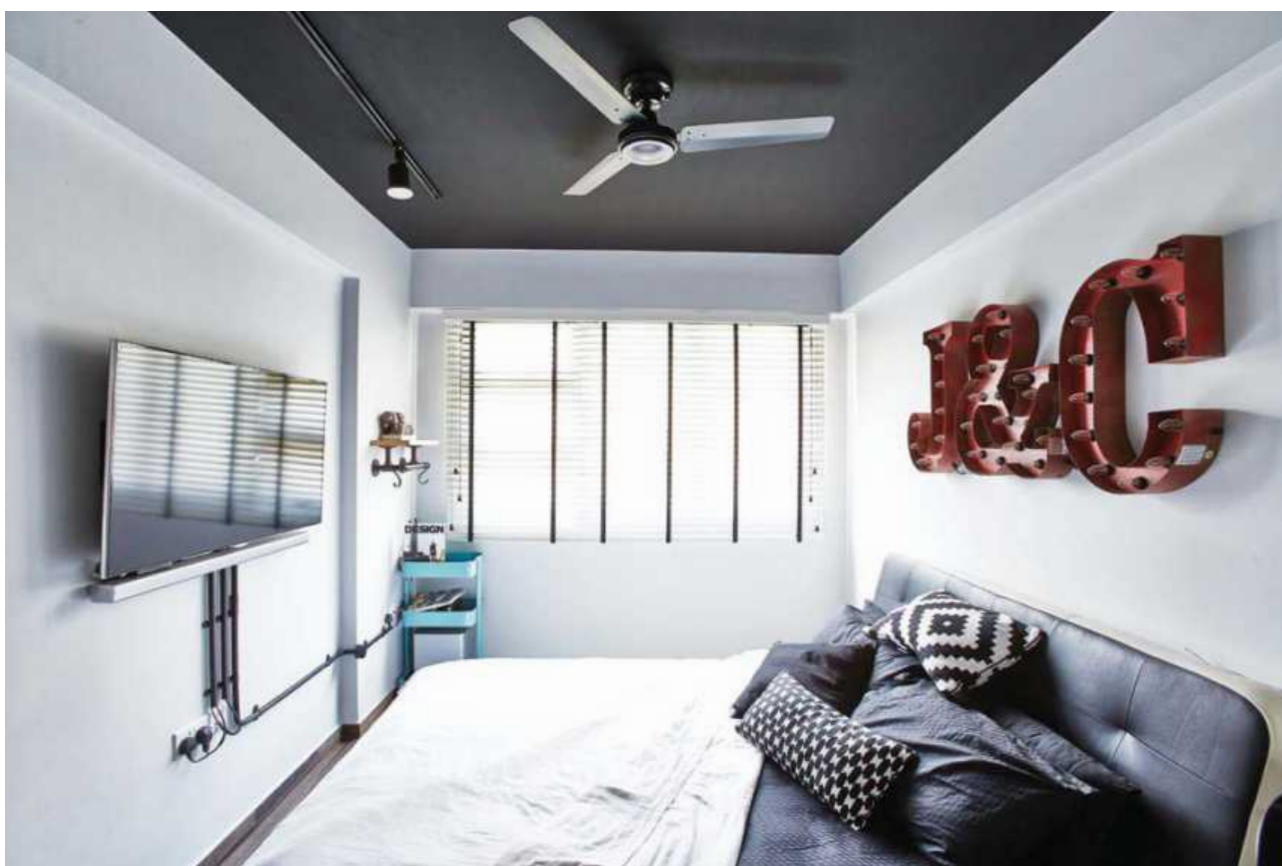


container-inspired cabinet to reveal over 100 pairs of stilettos and sneakers.

To complete the look of a “moving” shipping container, the designer incorporated an I-beam in the design of the TV console and a decorative pulley system beside the storage unit, creating an “art installation” that is also functional, he explains.

Masculine and sleek, the monochromatic kitchen boasts a backsplash of black subway tiles and exposed piping that conceals lighting cables. Here, the wall that once zoned the kitchen was hacked away to create a light-filled, open-plan space. The nine-month-long renovation, which cost about RM246,000 (excluding fixtures and furniture), also included the removal of a wall between two bedrooms – the larger of which was converted into a walk-in wardrobe.

It is the abundance of wood tones that balance out the rugged aesthetics of this apartment to make it a homely and inviting space to dwell in. As Jason puts it: “If it’s too industrial, it’ll feel like you’re coming home to a prison cell every day.” ●



FAMILIAR COMFORTS

A peppy mix of different elements brings not only energy, but also a sense of homely comfort, to this apartment's fluid spaces.

WHO

Two men in their 40s
and 50s, and their dog

HOME

Three-bedroom
condominium

SIZE

1,615sqf

RIGHT
A large entryway
creates a fluid
flow of space
between the
study-cum-
guest bedroom
and living area.
This space can
be closed up
with sliding
partitions
when guests
stay over. ➤









Luxury retailer Jack Lee isn't short of worldly possessions – so it's remarkable how the 44-year-old keeps his 1,615sqf apartment looking uncluttered. The animal-themed artwork, wood furnishings and whimsical statement pieces breathe life and colour into the all-white shell of the open-concept areas. "It's a personal space that reflects our individual style," Jack says. It is no wonder then, that he and housemate Jed feel instantly relaxed when they come home.

Jack had bought the apartment, without even viewing it, after being smitten by photographs of its lush treetop views and a nearby reservoir. As part of the renovation works, which cost RM300,000, designers James Koh and Benny Loke from 19sixtyseven took down some walls, such as the partition between the living area and kitchen, to allow the homeowners to enjoy the view from anywhere in the home. The all-white colour palette was picked "as it would not draw attention from the view", Jack explains. ➤

ABOVE
Peg legs give the furnishings in the open-concept living area a lighter, quirkier look. Sliding windows maximise the view and natural ventilation.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
The unobtrusive full-height acrylic shoe cabinet was designed to visually blend into the white walls.

BOTTOM
Jack and Jed love vintage furniture, such as this rocking chair.



An off-white Pandomo floor – a type of cement-based levelling compound – lends a sense of depth to the colour scheme, while pulling together the common areas. There is a smattering of wood pieces, such as a curvy teak coffee table with butterfly carvings from Bali, and the dining table, which is paired with Eames chairs in varying shades of blue – a natural hue the homeowners favour. “We used a lot of wood to warm up the place, so it doesn’t look too cold,” says Jack.

A combination of old and new items gives the home character, too, with Jack’s penchant for vintage furniture providing a vivid contrast to the kitchen’s gleaming quartz bar counter and ceiling-hung stainless steel wine-glass and cookbook rack.

Potted plants, and floral arrangements by Jack, bring the outside in, providing refreshing vignettes leading to the bedroom. In the bedroom, a dog-shaped lamp from Paris and an artwork of a pooch – a nod to their pet – add a personal dimension to the space. “The apartment really suits our taste and lifestyle, whether we want to entertain or rest after a jog,” says Jack. ➤

LEFT
The homeowners chose a quartz kitchen countertop as it provides a seamless surface and is easy to maintain.

{ OPPOSITE }
TOP LEFT
A painting from Vietnam paired with one of Jack’s floral arrangements compose a pretty picture.

TOP RIGHT
Jack bought a photographer’s studio lamp to serve as a centrepiece for the living area. Industrial elements such as a wire mesh sculpture and brick-tile wall add an edgy vibe.

BOTTOM
A Foscari Caboche pendant lamp, and Eames chairs in two shades of blue jazz up the utilitarian dining table.





LEFT

In the spare bedroom, a 20-plus-year-old armchair was reupholstered in light grey fabric and electric blue piping to give it a new lease of life.

BELOW

White subway tiles keep the bathroom light and bright, with a slight industrial edge.

The various wood tones and spots of greenery turn the apartment into an idyllic oasis.





TOP
Together with the wood floors, a bedside table made from a cross-section of a tree trunk cosies up the room.

RIGHT
Potted plants and the lush view from the wall-to-wall windows bring the outdoors in. ●

ALL BOXED UP

Striking design features, such as crate-like cabinets and an unfinished brick wall, give this home a unique edge.

WHO

A couple and
their toddler

HOME

Four-room flat

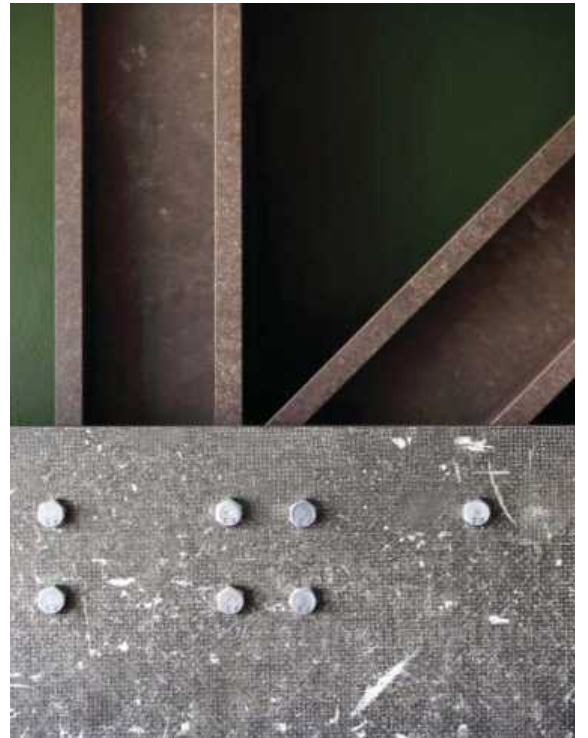
SIZE

1,100sqf

RIGHT
This custom-built design feature, which uses wood and metal-like laminates, spans one wall of the living room. The wall is painted with chalkboard paint so family members can doodle on it. Chair from Galanga Living. ➤









A tight and unremarkable space, the squarish new digs of this young couple was in dire need of a makeover. The designers at Distinctidentity took on the RM135,000 project, and while the renovations took a mere eight weeks to complete – the changes comprised mainly cabinetry and flooring works, with no structural changes – the design took a much longer time to come together.

The initial design had a light colour palette that the couple found too clean, so we spent a year perfecting the look they wanted, says the designer. The end result is a darker, industrial-led concept with a

touch of green (inspired by the wife's occupation in the army). We explore the spaces that were given an unconventional twist.

The living room

Set against a green wall is a custom-made TV console and a series of crate-like cabinets of varied heights, seemingly arbitrarily arranged. Finished in metal and wood-lookalike laminates, the cabinets house audiovisual equipment, footwear and knick-knacks. This whole area is framed by wooden beams finished with metal-like laminates. Opposite, what looks like an incomplete brick wall forms another point of interest. ➤

ABOVE
The brick-like feature wall was deliberately left unfinished to create the illusion that "the wall was hacked halfway", says the designer.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
Industrial clamps, wire mesh and raw wood textures were used to create cabinets that resemble shipping crates.

BOTTOM
Metal-lookalike laminates were applied to the wooden beams that frame the TV console and cabinets.



RIGHT
The clever design of this wall ensures that the entrances to the bomb shelter and the bathroom are integrated seamlessly into the wall.

BELOW
The textured surfaces and green accent wall make the simple master bedroom visually more interesting.

[OPPOSITE]
FAR LEFT
The chalkboard and brick design elements in the living room continue into the compact dining area.

LEFT
In line with the industrial theme, the kitchen has concrete-screed surfaces and laminated cabinets with rugged wood textures.

photo DISTINCTIDENTITY



The wall along the corridor

There are two doorways along this corridor – that of the bomb shelter and the bathroom – and the designer streamlined the look of the space with a design inspired by barn doors. He used wood-lookalike laminates to clad the entire wall, including the doors, and used black metal-look laminates to outline the door openings as well as add simple line details.

The bedroom

Due to the space constraints in the living room and the dining area, most of the storage units were built in the bedroom. Stretching across the width of the room is a platform – on which sits the bed – done up in concrete-screed-lookalike laminate that hides several storage compartments. Floor-to-ceiling wardrobes, which occupy two adjacent walls, offer more storage space. The designer gave the surfaces a more rugged character by using woodgrain laminates of contrasting tones and textures for the wardrobe doors. ●



THE MORE THE MERRIER

Five tile and three laminate designs make up the exciting smorgasbord of pattern and colour in the kitchen of this flat!

WHO

A bachelor in
his mid-30s

HOME

Four-room flat

SIZE

900sqf



The designer did away with all the non-structural walls, in order to naturally brighten up the flat. To zone the spaces, glass sliding doors were installed. ➤



BELOW
The four walls, as well as the floor of the kitchen, are clad in different tiles, each side varying in pattern and colour.

(OPPOSITE)

LEFT
Three laminate designs, used on the cabinets and countertop, add to the wacky mix of patterns in the kitchen.

TOP RIGHT
The widely travelled homeowner decorated his home with purchases and souvenirs from abroad.

BELOW RIGHT
A custom-design blackboard allows the homeowner to add to the fun and colour of the kitchen in the form of his doodles.





Bachelor Colin Cheong wasted no time in buying his first flat, upon turning 35 and becoming eligible to do so. He envisioned it to be a welcoming, cosy space with wood tones and colours to complement the decor accessories he has collected during his travels over the years. He also wanted it to stand out in a refreshing way, "steering away from trends such as subway tiles and brick walls". So for something really unorthodox, his interior designer, Alvin Ling of The Scientist, proposed a "remix concept."

This involved a mishmash of five types of tiles, each with distinctive bold patterns, all in the modestly sized kitchen. Colin went for it, and chose the colourful Mediterranean tiles from Hafary. "Two out of the five types also have many variations, adding to the chaos!" he laughs. But that's not all – Alvin designed the kitchen cabinetry to incorporate three styles of laminates, too! The result is a visually arresting design that makes the space the focal point. Colin spent about RM180,000 (excluding furniture) on the renovation. [👉](#)



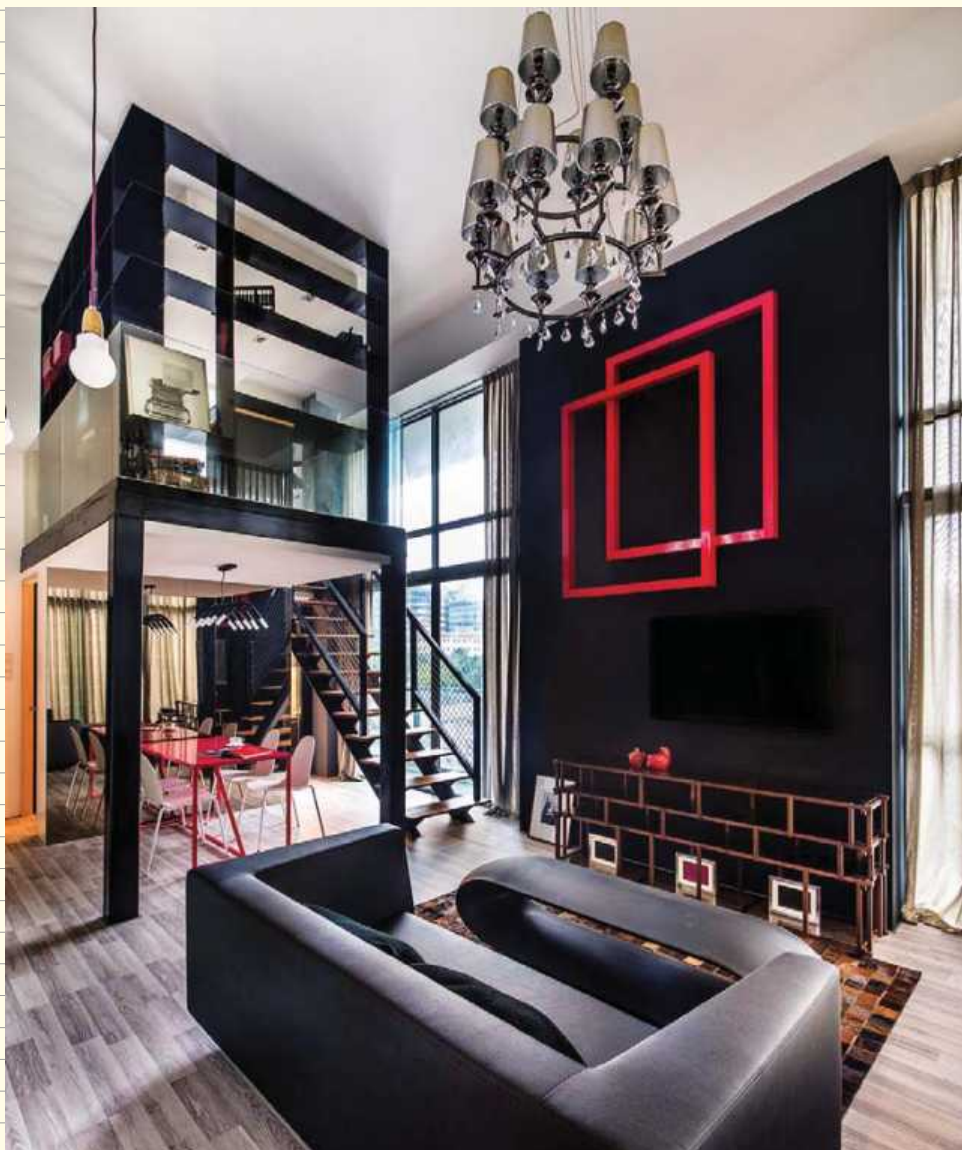


LEFT
Alvin turned one bedroom into a spacious dining area. Colin accessorised the space with framed prints of his own photographs.

(OPPOSITE) TOP
A built-in cabinet separates the entrance foyer from the living room, while still allowing natural light in from the window. The two-in-one structure stores shoes on one side, and acts as a TV console on the other.

BELOW LEFT
Faux grass and a colourful cow planter acquired in Australia are the first things visitors see upon entering, adding a touch of fun and personality to the space.

BELOW RIGHT & MIDDLE RIGHT
Two bedrooms were combined to form a larger master bedroom, which includes an open wash area next to the new entrance to the shower area. Formerly, the bathroom could be accessed only via the kitchen. ●



design: DISTINCTIDENTITY

of 2.1m at the top level, enough for a person to stand up,” says the designer. As the homeowner was going to use the space as a study, the designer customised wooden study desks and shelves for the room, too. The total cost came up to between RM120,000 and RM150,000.

For a cleaner finish, homeowners can consider using wood to build their loft, but that would be more expensive, advises the designer.

My spare room, which is used for furniture and bric-a-brac, has developed a musty scent. How do I get rid of the smell?

The first thing you must do is to throw open the windows and air out the room! Do this often to prevent the air from getting stale.

You might not be able to see mould with the naked eye, but “if a room smells musty, there’s probably mould growing on the surface,” says Bernard Tan of Akzo Nobel, which manufactures Dulux paint.

Identify the source of the mould and fix it – is it a leak within the walls, or maybe an opening that’s allowing rain to trickle in? Rainwater can sometimes seep in through the walls, too!

For a natural remedy, place pieces of black charcoal around the room to deodorise the air and reduce dampness, advises Militza Maury of Little Green Dot, an eco-friendly living blog. Make a room spray with all-natural essential oils (get the recipe at www.tinyurl.com/naturalspray), instead of using chemically scented room fresheners.

If you’re clearing out the room for someone to move in, give it a fresh coat of paint to visually brighten it up. “Consider using Dulux Fungicidal Wash to remove the mould on the walls before painting,” says Bernard. ➤

Q & A

YOUR RENO & DECOR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

We answer your renovation and decorating questions with help from industry experts.

I’m looking to buy a small apartment with a really high ceiling, as I heard I can build a loft bedroom to maximise the space. I’m keen, but how much would it cost and how do I go about doing that?

Small Office Home Office (Soho) apartments, which usually come with ceiling heights of 4.5m to 5m, are usually marketed with the assurance that the owners are able to build a loft level to maximise its tiny footprint.

Buyers have to take into account the extra expense needed to build this mezzanine, and the regulations relating to its construction.

For instance, the new structure cannot be mounted onto the existing wall and floor surfaces, and should be treated as a temporary addition, which can be removed when needed.

Its design also needs the endorsement of a Professional Engineer to ensure that it is sound and, once that is approved, the drawings will be sent to the estate management for record.

For this Soho apartment (pictured), the designer at Distinctidentity constructed the 300sqf loft level, its staircase and railing out of galvanised metal, which is stable due to its weight. “We usually provide a clearance

I've always liked prints, and want to use wallpaper on my walls. What do I need to know?

Wallpapers aren't just decorative paper you paste on your walls anymore. The range of patterns and materials available now is huge, and poses lots of exciting possibilities for the home decorator. Most wallpapers have a paper backing, and a decorative printed layer which is finished with a vinyl top coat. The top layer can also be made of fabric, and even natural materials such as grass!



design DESIGN INTERVENTION

Wallpapers offer texture and dimension, as they can take on embossing, as well as flocking, which gives them a velvet-like surface. Generally, they are great for covering up any imperfections on your wall, such as cracks, with the exception of more delicate ones, such as those printed with foil or made of silk.

Compared to paint, wallpapers are more durable (if applied correctly and professionally), take less time to apply, but are also more expensive. It's inadvisable to use them in humid areas such as bathrooms and kitchens, because the adhesive might lose its strength.

Another reason to use wallpapers is that you can change them when you want to change the look of your room!

It would be really cool if I could use an app to automatically switch on the appliances in my home. Is there one available?

Ah, the joys of convenience.

Since we already run most of our life using smartphones, we should be able to control our home environments through them, too, right? But such control is possible only with devices that have an infrared connection, such as TV sets, hi-fi systems, gaming consoles, DVD players and so on (in other words, gadgets that can already be controlled remotely).

There are apps you can download, which can turn your smartphone into a universal remote controller; some work through your home's Wi-Fi network, so you can control your Wi-Fi-enabled devices, too. LG

has recently launched its Quick Remote app (only for LG phones), which works with products from various manufacturers.

Product-specific apps for home entertainment products, such as TV sets and hi-fi systems are also becoming more commonplace, making the physical remote control a thing of the past.

For lighting, Philips has developed the Hue lighting system, which can be programmed using an app on your phone to control up to 50 of its Hue LED bulbs.

You can also install a professional home automation system, which comes with its own proprietary app to control selected features, such as your lighting, music, and security. ●

Andaman Salad Kimizu Souce Jitate (Andaman Seafood Salad)

This sashimi salad was conceptualised by Executive Chef Tadashi Inose of Tatsu Japanese Cuisine, InterContinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

SEAFOOD

- 20g maguro
- 20g salmon
- 20g octopus
- 20g prawn
- 20g yellowtail
- 20g squid

SALAD

- Daikon radish
- Carrot
- Mizuna
- Shimeji mushroom

FOR DRESSING

- 12.5g white miso
- 20g sugar
- 5g vinegar
- 1 egg yolk
- 1.25g sesame oil
- 25g mayonnaise

METHOD:

1. Whisk together ingredients for dressing and set aside.
2. Plate salad and seafood together.
Serve with dressing.



For more information, visit www.intercontinental-kl.com.my/



Sharp EMS80WH stand mixer

With its stainless steel-decorated mixing head, variable speed-control and a 350W motor, Sharp's stand mixer is sure to please. The stainless steel mixing bowl holds up to 4 litres, and is equipped with a splash guard to avoid messy spills. The mixer also comes with other accessories: a dough hook, a whisk, and a beater.

For more information, visit www.sharp.com.my

Breville smart oven

Not all ovens are created equal, and the Breville Smart Oven certainly lives up to its moniker. As wide as 18.5 inches, and as deep as 12.5 inches, the oven is large enough for you to cook a large pizza or roast a large chicken. You don't have to remove the oven door to get to the crumb tray, which makes clean up an easy affair. You can even warm your plates with the oven top, which heats up during cooking. The Smart Oven has three rack height options with a guide on the window that shows the correct height placement for different foods. Four buttons control different things: power, convection, the defrost mode, as well as a Fahrenheit/Celcius convertor. If you're in the market for a smart toaster oven that does plenty, this is most definitely the one for you.

For more information, visit www.breville.com



Pensonic PGH614G cooker hob

Cooking at home has never been easier or safer with Pensonic's new PGH614G Cooker Hob for liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). A high quality tempered glass body houses three different hobs. The trivets are made of durable cast iron, and the caps, fashioned out of brass.

For more information, visit www.pensonic.com.



Pensonic Chef's Like microwave oven

Powered with a whopping 700W with a 20 litre capacity, the Pensonic Chef's Like Microwave Oven is a strongman amongst others of its kind. It has six different power levels that reheat your food over a 245 millimetre glass turntable tray. Defrosting frozen foods with this microwave is also a breeze, so you can prepare and freeze your ingredients ahead of time. ●

For more information, visit www.pensonic.com.



Rendang ayam merah

Spice up your dinners with this recipe courtesy of Chef Ismail and Pensonic!

- 150 ml cooking oil
- 3 star anise
- 1.3 kg chicken
- 2 stalks lemongrass, diced
- 450 ml water
- 1.3 cm stalk of cinnamon
- 3 cardamom pods
- 300 ml coconut milk
- 70 g toasted coconut
- Salt and sugar to taste

- Spices, blended together
- 3 cloves garlic
- 1 cm turmeric leaf
- 1 cm ginger
- 8 bird's eye chillies
- 3 large onions
- 2 stalks lemongrass
- 1.5 cm galangal
- 15 dried chillies
- 100 ml water

1. Heat oil and sauté cinnamon, star anise and cardamom. Add blended spices and continue to sauté until fragrant.
2. Add chicken, coconut milk, lemongrass, toasted coconut and water. Cook over medium heat and season with sugar and salt to taste. Continue cooking until chicken is tender.



Brabantia reversible placemat

Placemats protect your table from marks, stains and spills. Brabantia's are also reversible, so you can switch around the designs depending on your mood. These placemats are made of high-quality colour-fast polyester, which is easily cleaned with a damp cloth. ►

For more information, visit www.brabantia.com

Your ideal kitchen assistant

Stand mixers are everywhere these days, but how do you know which one is the best one for you? Choose one with that is powerful, reliable and multifunctional. The Electrolux Kitchen Machine EKM4000R and EKM4000S (Which comes with a meat grinder and salad processor) are stand mixers that pack a 1000W punch, with up to 10 selections for speed. Finished in a durable metal housing, they can be used again and again to help you prepare wholesome feasts. Both models come with accessories like dough hooks, and different kinds of whisks and beaters. Available in watermelon red and silver.

For more information, visit www.electrolux.com.my/



LG MS2022DB microwave oven

The new LG MS2022DB microwave oven will revolutionise the way microwaves cook. Instead of two-dimensional waves, LG's intellowaves are three-dimensional, entering the oven through specially designated slots so your food is evenly cooked. The EasyClean coating is also stain resistant, so clean-up won't be a hassle.

For more information, visit www.lg.com.my

It's a vortex in here!

With a professional triple-bladed velouté knife, 700W motor and a turbo function, the Electrolux ESTM6600 Hand Mixer creates a vortex that sucks food into the knife for a smooth blending experience. It functions perfectly with even the hardest ingredients like nuts or ice. If you're sick of manually chopping food, the hand mixer also comes with a food processor with a 1.25 litre capacity. Additionally, a 1.5 litre blender jug takes care of all your smoothie-making needs. In need of heavy-duty mixing? The double whisks will take care of that for you with utter ease.

For more information, visit www.electrolux.com.my/





Brabantia Pauline collection

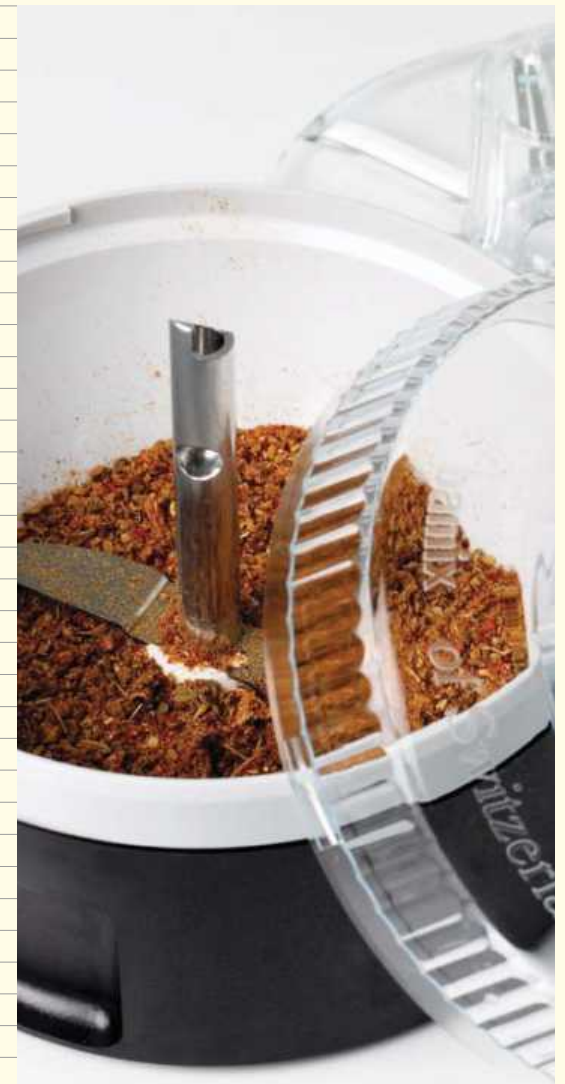
With all the cleaning that's done post-cooking, there is definitely a need for reliable, but also stylish dustbins. This collection is by Pauline Bogaards, winner of the 2013 "Pimp Our Print" design competition by Brabantia. Filled with feathers, the design came to Bogaards on a train, where she saw a little girl holding onto a nice feather. There are two different designs to choose from: one black and white, and the other coloured.

For more information, visit www.brabantia.com

All in one and one for all

The Bamix food processor takes on the form of a stick mixer, making it all possible with a full range of attachments such as multi-purpose blades. With the use of this ingenious kitchen tool and its attachments, you can crush ice, emulsify mayonnaises, stir light dough, create salad dressings, make smooth sauces, chop and mince meat and fibrous vegetables, and grind and grate fine powders. The glass well that comes with the mixer is double-insulated and watertight, so it is safe to use just about anywhere. The Bamix has a capacity of 200W at 17,000 RPM, ensuring a powerful, consistent result with each use. ●

For more information, visit www.westmetric.com.my/product-category/bamix/.



BREAK THE CODE

Confused by the care labels on your clothes, bedding and upholstery? Here's a quick guide to decoding the symbols to ensure your fabrics get the best care.



DID YOU KNOW

THE SYMBOLS



What it means

The wash symbol refers to the temperature and cycle that should be used to machine-wash the item. If the symbol includes a hand, it means that handwashing is recommended.



What it means

The triangle symbol tells you whether or not to use bleach. A plain white triangle means any kind of bleach may be used, but if it has two diagonal lines inside, use only non-chlorine bleach.



What it means

The square represents drying methods. A circle inside it means the item is suitable for tumble-drying. Other variations refer to natural drying methods, such as line- or hang-drying (a curved line inside the square), drip-drying (three vertical lines), and for drying flat (a single horizontal line).



What it means

This indicates whether or not the item needs to be dry-cleaned. Some include an uppercase letter (A, P, or F), which refers to the type of dry-cleaning solvent required.



What it means

This tells you if the piece can be ironed regularly (steam or dry), and the temperature that must be used.



Heat settings

These dots are usually seen within the wash, dry and iron symbols. The number of dots increases with the temperature that can be used. One dot means a "cool" setting or low heat; two dots point to "warm" or medium heat; and three dots refer to "hot" or high heat. Some labels also indicate the maximum temperature (in degrees Celsius) that should be used.



Cycle types

These bars may be included underneath the wash and tumble-dry symbols. A single line means a permanent press cycle, and two lines mean a delicate or gentle cycle. If there is no line, a normal cycle can be used.



"Do not" sign

The X code shows you what not to do. For example, a "do not wash" symbol is your cue to take the item to the dry-cleaners, while an "X" over the dry-clean symbol means the piece is washing machine-safe.

Upholstered furniture pieces typically have a care tag that indicates the safest cleaning method for the fabric. The codes are:

W – Use only water and water-based detergent. Create a diluted solution and apply in a circular motion, then rinse with water thoroughly.

S – The fabric requires solvent-based products such as dry-cleaning solutions. In short, it is best to leave the job to professionals.

S/W – Either use a water-based cleaner or have it dry-cleaned, depending on the type of stain.

X – The upholstery cannot withstand any sort of cleaning method other than vacuuming and light brushing. ●

buying guide

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www.alphamalaysia.com

Bangsar Shopping Centre

www.bsc.com.my

BoConcept

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www.caesarstone.com.sg

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tel: 1800-822-822
www.lg.com

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Starhill Gallery
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www.metrojaya.com.my

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A motto is a phrase, a choice of words that you use to name your motivations and intentions. In short, it is a sentence people use to define themselves and their experiences. Some mottos are infamous, like "You'll Never Walk Alone", "Faster, Higher, Stronger", "Think Different" and "Connecting People". Do you know who coined those mottos?

Place your favourite mottos on the wall to provide yourself with instant pick-me-ups on downer days. One glance at the words will give you the strength to pull

through any adversity. Your mottos don't need to be too serious, neither. All you need are a few choice words that you might find entertaining or funny

You can put your mottos up in several ways. Paint or stencil them on, or make up the words using individual hanging alphabets. Alternatively, you could also mount them above your bed's headboard. This way, these words will greet you first thing in the morning and last thing before bed. Keep calm and carry on! ●

[THE MOTTOS BELONG TO LIVERPOOL FC, THE OLYMPIC INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE, APPLE INC. AND NOKIA]





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